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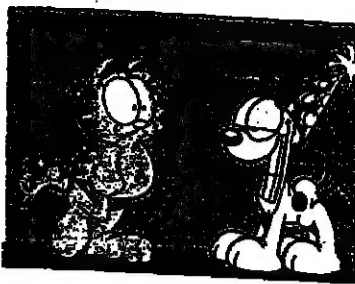
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## Netanyahu: No unity government or early elections for now

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Friday he has no intention of holding early elections or forming a national unity government.

Netanyahu, expressing confidence that neither the Right nor the Left will cause his government to fall, said that once he reaches a pullback agreement he will persuade all coalition partners, ministers and the public to support it.

"I'm not dealing with coalition considerations at all. I see no reason to hold early elections, I believe this government will survive, and I'm

not going to [form] a national unity government," he said.

But opposition leader Ehud Barak, who met Netanyahu for an hour-long briefing on Friday, said he emerged "at a loss" as to whether a second pullback is in the offing at all.

"It's my impression the prime minister is more concerned with the possibility of losing his seat than with the fate of the peace process," Barak said.

Netanyahu and Barak were interviewed on both Channels 1 and 2 on Friday night.

Netanyahu said the second pullback agreement will be the last

agreement Israel signs before the final status talks and constitutes the last of its commitments to the Palestinians according to the Oslo Accords.

Contrary to prior statements issued by his bureau, Netanyahu said he did not rule out a referendum on the second pullback and was considering it as one of the ways to muster wide public support. After the issue was first raised last week, sources from Netanyahu's bureau said he only had referred to the referendum in jest.

Netanyahu said he did not ask Labor to join a national unity government at his meeting with Barak,

noting they did not discuss political issues. He said he had updated Barak on the peace process, just as he updates ministers.

Netanyahu also denied the suggestion that the US had eased the pressure on him out of consideration for his fears for the coalition's integrity.

Asked about the timing of the second pullback, Netanyahu said, "I'm not standing with a stopwatch and don't have a timetable for issues regarding Israel's national security."

"I can handle all the coalition problems, because when I'm convinced I have the best agreement

I'll persuade all the coalition partners, the cabinet and the public to support it."

Barak described Netanyahu as a "fish entangled in a net, twitching between the extremists of the National Religious Party and the settlers and their rabbis. All he's occupied with is his coalition and its survival."

Barak said that all Netanyahu's talk about the pullback is "nothing but a fireworks display" and estimated the pullback agreement is not close and may not be implemented for weeks to come.

He urged Netanyahu to hold "the most real referendum there is

— national elections."

Barak warned that "the more time that passes until the pullback agreement, the more damage it is causing us and Israel's security. Obviously, the obstacles to the peace process are only in the coalition and the right-wing extremists."

Barak said a national unity government is not on the agenda, "because the issue is not the government's composition but its way, and this one is heading for disaster. I will not be part of it."

Asked about a parliamentary safety net on Labor's part to ensure support for the second pullback,

Barak said "there's no pullback proposal, so talking about a safety net is a waste of time. This government is not advancing peace. It's endangering the state's security. For the good of the people, I urge Netanyahu to go to early elections."

Meanwhile, Labor MKs who support Barak yesterday attacked his critics in the party, warning that they were undermining his chances of defeating Netanyahu in the next elections.

MKs Ori Orr, Micha Goldman and Eli Goldschmidt rallied to Barak's defense, warning their colleagues that this behavior will not go unanswered.



### PM angers Reform Jews

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (left) and Rabbi Eric Yoffie, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, appear at a gathering on Friday where Netanyahu suggested Reform rabbis would offer instant conversions. Story, Page 2.

(Brian Henders)

## Two youngsters trapped-to-death in Nazareth rooftop container

By DAVID RUDGE  
 and news agencies

Two youngsters died after being trapped for several hours in a water container on the roof of a house in Nazareth on Friday.

Police said it appeared that Mohammed Naif Abu-Ziad, nine, and his friend Issas Adnan Naif, six, had either drowned in the container or suffocated.

The Nazareth Magistrate's Court rejected a police request to carry out an autopsy to determine the cause of death, because the family objected. The court ruled yesterday morning that there was no evidence of foul play or negligence in the tragedy.

The boys both were buried in the Nazareth Cemetery yesterday afternoon. Abu-Ziad is survived by his parents and two brothers. Naif is survived by his parents, a brother and a sister.

Superintendent Ety Meirson, spokeswoman for the Ha'amakim district, said police learned of the incident around 11 p.m. on Friday when they were informed that the bodies of two boys had been brought to the Scottish and French hospitals in

Nazareth.

"Initial inquiries revealed that the youngsters had gone missing in the afternoon and were found at night by a relative inside a water container."

"The container itself was about one meter and 10 centimeters high and 80cm. wide with an opening at the top of just 35cm. diameter," she said.

The children apparently had been on the roof of Abu-Ziad's three-story home, climbed on top of the plastic water container and fallen inside.

An uncle of one of the victims

told Itim that the container was empty.

It was destined to be used as a standby water supply and was not connected to any pipes. When police arrived on the scene, the tank had been tipped on its side, apparently by the relatives when they found the children inside.

"Suddenly I heard screams from Mohammed's mother, who had been searching for him," Abu-Ziad's uncle said. "She had a feeling that there was someone in the container, and when they opened it, they saw the leg of one of the children."

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH  
 and MOHAMMED NAJIB

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat has asked Hamas to join his cabinet as part of a reshuffle, a senior Palestinian official said yesterday.

PA Secretary-General Tayeb Abdul Rahim said he forwarded Arafat's request to Hamas officials yesterday.

Arafat's decision came on the eve of a planned Palestinian Legislative Council meeting slated for tomorrow, with PLC members threatening a no-confidence vote against the PA because of its failure to deal with corruption.

PLC Speaker Ahmed Qureia (Abu Aila) said he will ask the PLC to postpone the vote for another 10 days and allow Arafat to go ahead with his reshuffle plans.

There were no details available yesterday concerning the posts that are slated to be changed and the names of officials, but Palestinian officials said Arafat would be consulting with PLC members and top Palestinian officials to formulate his new government.

Gaza Hamas leader Mahmoud Zahar said the movement's spiritual leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin would return to Gaza early Tuesday and would decide on Arafat's offer after he returns.

"We asked to postpone the national dialogue meeting until Yassin returns," Zahar said. "We have not notified anyone of our acceptance or refusal of the proposal."

The Hamas spokesman in Jordan, Ibrahim Ghosheh, said on a Radio Monte Carlo interview last night that Hamas would not discuss joining the PA's ranks.

Hamas sources said many were

opposed to joining the PA, saying they preferred that the organization remain outside as a strong opposition.

Zahar denied Hamas will change its political ideology if it decides to join the PA ranks. He added: "We do not want to see a weakened Fatah or PA, and those that are interested in seeing the weakening of Hamas don't realize that it will harm the Palestinian cause."

Arafat was quoted as saying two Hamas officials are currently serving in the PA, and they are not treated differently because of it. While the PA and Hamas have their differences, he said, there is a national consensus concerning Palestine.

In a telephone interview from Khartoum on Channel 1 and 2, Yassin commented on the debate his pending return created.

"I left through the front door, not a window, and I will return through the front door."

Responding to the claim that Israeli security officials had called him a dangerous person, Yassin said "thank you for the compliment, since when is a man judged for his beliefs?"

Yassin said the vast amounts of money he collected during his three-and-a-half month stint outside of Gaza will be used to fund Hamas charity organizations and assist the needy.

"Anyone who wants to carry out military actions doesn't need money to carry them out," Yassin said.

However, some Palestinians hinted that Arafat's offer to Hamas was made because of the funds Yassin collected and the PA's serious financial state.

OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Moshe Yahalon said that while he would have preferred

Yassin remain behind bars, the remaining question is where he can do the most damage — inside Gaza or abroad. He said that this depended on what Arafat wants.

Meanwhile, in an interview with the London-based newspaper *Al-Sharq al-Awsat*, Arafat said his successor will be determined by the PLO Executive Committee and the Cabinet. "I am not the person to decide who will be my successor but Abu Mazen is one of the most important people in the leadership and is also the secretary of the PLO Executive Committee and is therefore entitled to respect."

Arafat denied that there was a dispute between the PA and Syria in convening an Arab summit, but hinted that the US was seeking a delay.

He also said he supported the efforts made by French President Jacques Chirac and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak who are seeking to convene an international summit.

"It is important to convene an Arab summit that will represent the Arab World and make a unified stand."

In an unrelated incident, the PA sent a strong letter of protest to the US administration over what it called increasing "settlement activity" in east Jerusalem.

AP adds: The chief Moslem cleric in Jerusalem urged Palestinians on Friday to move into empty homes in the city to protect them from being taken over by Jews.

"Either you live in them or rent them to institutions that will protect them from being taken over by extremists," Mufti Ikrema Sabri said in his weekly sermon at Al-Aksa Mosque. "Leaving them empty will put them in danger."

## Checks and balances on the wedding night

By LARRY DIERFNER

A standard-equipped wedding here costs about NIS 50,000-90,000 — in other words, a year's salary for the average citizen, says Orna Elbaz, who books catered affairs.

But even poor Israelis throw weddings for 300, 400 or more guests, with hors d'oeuvres, flowers, the bride's NIS 4,000 rented gown, the groom's NIS 2,500 rented tuxedo and all the rest. How do they do it?

With checks — from the guests. "Out of the last 20 weddings I did, 18 of the couples paid for the wed-

ding out of the checks they got," said Elbaz, manager of Dragee Events and Productions, a Ramat Gan booking house for catered affairs.

Upon arrival at the wedding, guests put their checks into a box guarded over by a waiter. Once the guests are inside, the waiter takes the box and locks it in a room. After the guests go home, the box is taken out, and the couple sits down with the banquet hall owner and signs over as many checks as necessary to pay off the bill, said Elbaz, manager of Ramat Gan's Dragee Events and Productions.

"Some banquet halls will trust the couple to come pay it off the next day," she noted.

Many families who are financially comfortable will pay part of the cost out of their pocket — or even the whole bill if they're especially well-fixed — so their children can bank at least some of the checks.

But most Israeli newlyweds know that aside from the fat checks they can expect from their parents, the "gifts" they receive are paying for the wedding, Elbaz said.

The goal is not to make money on the deal, which is virtually impossible because of the high expenses, but to throw the wedding for free — to get enough in checks to "cover" the affair, she added.

"All over the world a wedding is a wedding, and people buy gifts — cutlery, appliances, whatever. Here it's all about getting money," said a banquet hall staffer who asked not to be named. "People even talk in those terms. They say, 'I made X amount of shekels at my wedding.'"

Giving actual gifts like cutlery or appliances is considered a "disgrace," the staffer added.

An acceptable check these days is NIS 200-300 per guest couple,



say banquet hall operators.

Guests decide how much to give depending on how close they are to the family, but many also take into consideration the cost of the hall. "If a [guest couple] sees wedding is at the Hilton, they're it's costing the family a \$70 a plate, so they're not going to give \$50 between the two of

and embarrass themselves," explained Shmuel "Chico" Kistales, manager of Ramle's Hamelech Shlomo hall.

In the country's older, poorer days, guests didn't give checks to the newlyweds; they gave modest, practical gifts like bedsheets, blankets, pots and pans — the basics of setting up a household.

The giving of checks at today's weddings "represents an economic activity — the opening of an account with someone else or the of an account with him," said Aviv University anthro-

Dr. Ne'eman, noting that

givers is either yesterday's gift or today's gift.

Message from giving gifts to Ne'eman said, given less large, said Elbaz.

"That's why there are no more helicopters or limousines for the

"A check shows no personal attention or thoughtfulness, and in advanced societies people give gifts as a sign of personal regard. A check is a token of economic activity, and it is in primitive societies that people use gifts for an economic purpose. This is because they have few other economic outlets — they don't have banks or much in the way of business."

Beduin, for instance, still use wedding gifts as economic activity — they decide how many sheep they should give, how many goats," Ne'eman said.

While the economic recession here isn't causing people to hold weddings in their homes — only mansion-dwellers in Savoyon, Herzliya Pituah or Kfar Shmaryahu can get away with that — it is forcing them to be a little less large, said Elbaz.

"That's why there are no more helicopters or limousines for the

bride and groom — they cost too much," she said. "Today, instead of hiring a band for \$3,000-\$7,000, people will get a DJ for \$1,000. Instead of taking a really good photographer for \$2,000, they'll get somebody who's not so good for \$1,000."

When you talk about weddings and money, you're talking about status — about showing off how much you've got. Yet wealth is not the only thing that can be displayed. Power can be shown in who you know — or rather who you can bag for a guest, whether you know him or not.

For some, getting the community social worker to come to the wedding is a coup. For others, it's the local mayor. For others, it's President Ezer Weizman.

And at a big league Israeli wedding, not just any rabbi will do.

Second in a four-part series. Tomorrow: Showing status



# NEWS

in brief

## US selling Israel Patriot equipment for \$73m.

The Pentagon announced Friday it is selling Israel \$73 million worth of equipment for the Patriot anti-missile system. The package includes radar sets, engagement control systems, trackers, trucks, generators and spare parts, as well as consultation and training, the Defense Department said in a statement.

"Israel needs this surface-to-air equipment to continue the upgrade of its air defense capabilities and will have no difficulty absorbing this additional equipment into its armed forces," it said.

The IAF now has three Patriot missile batteries with a fourth being formed. They are the workhorse of Israel's air defense from incoming ballistic missiles and enemy aircraft and will continue to be so even after the initial deployment of the Arrow anti-ballistic missile next year.

Hillel Kutler and Arieh O'Sullivan

## Fires rip through Galilee and south Lebanon

Huge fires swept through parts of the Galilee and south Lebanon yesterday.

A big brush fire broke out in the vicinity of Huleh village, in the eastern sector of the security zone. Soldiers on duty in the area managed to extricate themselves safely.

Farther south, a blaze started near moshav She'ar Yashuv in Upper Galilee in the early afternoon and quickly spread across grazing fields towards the Banyas nature reserve.

Officials said that nearly 2,000 dunams of grazing land had been destroyed in addition to a small part of the Banyas reserve.

Fires also destroyed 2,000 dunams of brush and grazing land near the villages of Yavne'el and Sdeh Ilan.

David Rudge

## Settlers protest increased attacks

Protesting an increase in shooting, stone-throwing and firebomb attacks, settlers from Hebron and Kiryat Arba staged a demonstration near Adura on the Trans-Judean Highway last night. They demanded stepped up IDF action to improve the safety of motorists.

Margot Dudkevitch

## Mofaz leaves for vacation in Turkey

Maj.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz, the designated chief of general staff, departed for Turkey over the weekend for some rest and relaxation before he takes over the top IDF job next month.

The visit is intended as a holiday, but Mofaz may also take the opportunity to meet with Turkish military officials.

Mofaz handed over his post as deputy chief of general staff to Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan on Thursday afternoon. He is to take over from Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin Shahak on July 9, becoming the IDF's 16th chief of general staff.

Arieh O'Sullivan

## S. Netanyahu may make goodwill trip to Africa

Sara Netanyahu may undertake a goodwill trip to four African countries within the next two months, a senior government official said yesterday.

The countries tentatively selected for her itinerary are Ethiopia, Kenya, Ivory Coast and South Africa, the official said. He said the main criterion behind choosing where she would travel was the extent to which Israel has economic links and other "interests" on the continent.

Although a departure date has yet to be set, it is likely to precede Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's projected visit to Australia in August.

Jay Bushinsky

## Treasury nixes compromise in workers' dispute

The Treasury last night rejected a compromise suggested by the National Labor Court to avert a threatened strike today by some 100,000 local council employees, Israel Radio said. The Finance Ministry reportedly turned down the suggestion that negotiations be held over the next month about the workers' salary demands. The court reconvened late last night to discuss the dispute, and it was unclear whether the strike would be launched.

In Beersheba the strike was called off in solidarity with city-wide mourning for two youths killed in last week's collapse of a school gym roof.

Sanitation workers in 265 local councils walked off their jobs indefinitely earlier yesterday evening.

Jerusalem Post Staff

## Cabbie kills, wounds would-be robbers

A cab driver shot to death one of two robbers who attacked him Friday night and seriously wounded the other. The incident occurred in Rahat, where the driver took the men from Tel Aviv. As the driver, whose name is being withheld by the police for his protection, followed his passengers' directions down a dark street, they attacked him from the rear seat. As one tried to strangle him with a plastic cord and the other sprayed him in the face with a tear-gas canister, the driver managed to draw his licensed pistol and fire at them. Nasser Aslala, 24, was killed outright and his alleged accomplice, Ishak Abu Seif, 19, was wounded in the shoulder and groin.

Itim

## Woman's body dumped at construction site

Two men threw the body of Ella Manchiriaci from a pickup truck onto a construction site at the outskirts of Beersheba yesterday morning. Workers guarding the site called their employer, who alerted the police. The woman's husband, Stanislaw, is being held for investigation. He and his wife, both 35, immigrated from the CIS with their eight-year-old son a short while ago and lived in the Nahal Ashan section of Beersheba, close to where her body was found. Stanislaw Manchiriaci had called police yesterday morning to report his wife missing. Her body was taken to the Forensic Institute at Abu Kabir to determine the cause of death.

Itim

IN LOVING MEMORY  
29 years have passed  
since the tragic loss of my dearest husband, our father,  
grandfather and brother  
The Pianist  
**ELIAHU RUDIAKOW** 77  
forever lovingly remembered and sadly missed  
The Family

With deep sorrow we announce the sudden death of our beloved  
**YOSEF ROTHSCHILD**  
engineer  
The funeral took place on Friday, June 12, 1998  
Shiva will be held at the house of the deceased,  
Rehov Visel 19, Tel Aviv,  
and at his sister's and brother's house,  
Rehov Mendele 4, Jerusalem,  
from 10:00-13:00 and 17:00-19:00  
The family

# PM offends Diaspora Reform leaders

## Suggested movement would offer instant conversions 'by fax'

By HAIM SHAPIRO

In an address apparently intended to express his sympathy and concern, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu angered a group of Diaspora Reform Jewish leaders by implying the Reform would carry out quickie fax conversions or mass conversions of Romanian foreign workers in Israel.

Speaking to a delegation of 170 Reform activists from the US on Friday, Netanyahu told them he supports the proposals of the Neeman Committee.

The prime minister, who promised to visit a Reform congregation on a future visit to the US, asked the leaders to be patient and not take extremist positions.

Netanyahu evoked applause when he rejected the idea that non-Orthodox Jews are treated as second-class Jews in Israel.

"I don't want any Jews to think of themselves as second-class Jews," he said.

The solution to the problem of registering as Jews those converted by Reform and Conservative rabbis in Israel, he said, will not come either by court action or by passing laws in the Knesset, but rather through the evolution of ad hoc situations. This, he suggested, is how the compromise between the secular and the religious in Israel had evolved.

However, Netanyahu angered the delegates when he implied that by recognizing Reform converts as Jews, Israel would be opening the door to mass conversions of foreign workers or quickie conversions.

"How do we prevent 4,000 Romanians and millions from other countries from declaring themselves Jews? Where is the barrier? The question we have here is how

do we prevent fax conversions," Netanyahu said.

In response, Rabbi Eric Yoffie, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and leader of the delegation, said that Netanyahu's implications were "outrageous."

Rabbi Uri Regev, director of the Reform movement's Israel Religious Action Center, said that the suggestions were an insult to Reform Jews and taken as such by the delegates.

He added that the suggestions were particularly absurd, because the conversions being discussed were those carried out by the Reform movement in Israel, which he said has particularly stringent standards.

"Netanyahu should know, if his advisers have not told him, that Reform conversion in Israel involves a year-long course of study,

active involvement in a congregation, and circumcision," Regev said.

Regev added that Netanyahu should also know that the only instances of quickie conversions for a fee uncovered here were carried out by Orthodox rabbis. Netanyahu, Regev said, should take the time to learn the realities of the Jewish world and of the Reform and Conservative movements in Israel, of which he is unfortunately not aware.

By making the implications, Regev said, Netanyahu offended the group rather than alleviating friction.

"It was the wrong message to convey to the wrong group," Regev said. However, he noted that Netanyahu had actually started out in a conciliatory fashion and said they appreciated the fact that he had met with the group.

# Arafat calls for economic pressure on Israel

By Jerusalem Post Staff and news agencies

Closing a two day visit to Italy and the Vatican, Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat received the "Golden Pegasus" Prize in Florence, and called for European economic pressure on Israel.

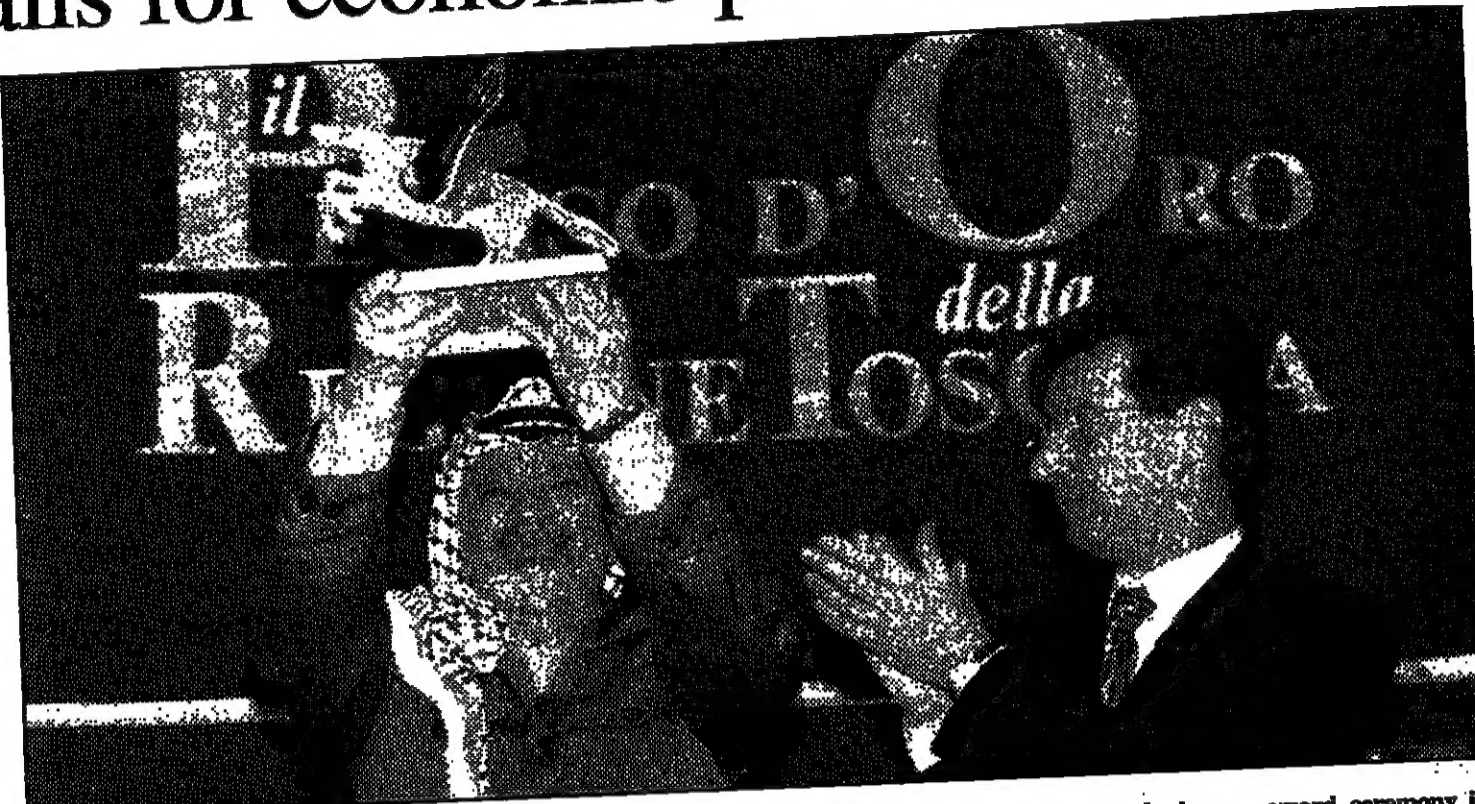
"I feel a great responsibility to continue on the path towards peace," he said at the ceremony, "despite the fact that some Israeli ministers would like to return to the idea of a Grand Israel." The prize was awarded two years ago, to the memory of Yitzhak Rabin.

He told the press that economic pressure would be effective against Israel "since 70 percent of Israel's foreign trade is with Europe."

Arafat was received by welcome committees during visits to several Italian cities. He suggested a twinship be created between the ancient cities of Tarquinia (of ancient Etruscan origins, 40 kilometers north of Rome) and Jericho.

On Friday, the PLO Chairman was received by the pope and Italian government and political leaders.

A Vatican statement following the 13-minute meeting said Arafat informed the pope of the "tragic situation in which the Palestinian people finds itself, while the peace process is threatened from all sides."



Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat holds up the Golden Pegasus trophy yesterday during an award ceremony in Florence. Applauding is Tuscany Region president Vannino Chiti. (AP)

John Paul told Arafat that the "peace process must continue with the good will of all sides, respecting commitments made and international law," the Vatican said.

"Certainly I will pray for you and your nation," John Paul assured Arafat during a photo-session after the formal talks in the pope's private library.

# Reno pledges 'new era of dialogue' with Arab Americans

By HILLEL KUTLER

WASHINGTON — US Attorney General Janet Reno pledged Friday to open a "new era of dialogue" with Arab Americans and encouraged them to maintain vigilance in the pursuit of justice.

"I am personally committed to this effort," Reno told the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (AAADC) in a speech here. "Together we need to build a lasting relationship with trust and understanding, with an ability to communicate together and say what's on our mind."

Arab Americans, who have become more politically active in recent years, have long complained of discriminatory treatment and stereotyping by neighbors, media and law enforcement authorities.

In a question and answer session following Reno's address, several lawyers raised complaints over what they called unfair treatment of Arab residents in cities across the country.

But they praised Reno for her outreach effort and her commitment to righting past wrongs.

In her speech, Reno lauded the ongoing congressional effort to improve prosecutors' ability to try those accused of committing hate crimes, calling it a "necessary supplement" to a 1988 law.

She said she has asked 93 federal prosecutors to form a hate crimes task force that will work with community groups to enforce the rights of Arab Americans under the law.

The FBI's hate crimes unit has recently begun working to better understand the needs of Arab Americans, Reno added.

"Now I know that sometimes

you have felt that the relationship between the FBI and many in the Arab and Moslem community has sometimes been troubled, and I want to assure you that we are committed to a new and a better understanding," Reno said. "Let us reach out in new directions. When there is a hate crime against someone in your community, please notify the FBI."

Reno further stated that she is concerned by passenger screening at airports that appears to single out Arabs in security checks. Reno urged participants to contact the Justice and Transportation departments whenever complaints need to be addressed.

"We were concerned, as you were, about allegations that Arab American passengers were targeted for additional security measures and treated in a discriminatory and disrespectful manner. We needed to ensure a more objective system."

# Playwright Nissim Aloni, 73

By HELEN KAYE and news agencies

Playwright Nissim Aloni died yesterday afternoon at Tel Aviv's Ichilov Hospital. He was 73.

"In his theatrical and original written works Aloni combined light and color, drama and comedy, song and laughter, and the wit of the stereotypical Israeli. His plays, his sketches and his songs are an inseparable part of Israeli life," Education and Culture Minister Yitzhak Levy said.

Aloni won an Israel Prize for his contributions to Israeli theater. His plays include *Most Cruel the King*, *The Bride and the Butterfly Hunter*, *Edi King* and *The American Princess*.

"It's a loss for everyone," actress Rivka Michaeli said.

Aloni, who had been ill for the past three years, was

hospitalized after suffering a stroke 10 days ago. The Israel Festival tribute to Aloni went ahead as planned last night at the Jerusalem Theater. The show includes scenes from his plays, sketches and songs, as well as from those he translated over the years. The actors found out about his death during a final rehearsal last night.

"We know that he'd have been here with us tonight had he not fallen ill a week ago," festival artistic director Micha Lewensohn said yesterday. "We decided to go ahead because this was planned a long time ago. Now, even though he's gone, he'll still be here with us tonight through his marvelous texts."

The funeral will take place at 1:30 today at Tel Aviv's Bahimah Theater. His body will lie in state in the Rubina Auditorium from noon. He will be buried at the Yarkon Cemetery.

# 'Foreign Report': Syria eager to resume talks

By DOUGLAS DAVIS

LONDON — Syria is demonstrating greater willingness flexibility in contacts aimed at resuming peace talks with Israel, according to *Foreign Report*, a weekly newsletter published in London.

The newsletter, published Thursday, quotes "well-sources" as saying that weeks have witnessed considerable "creativity" by the Syrians in attempting to find a formula that will permit the resumption of talks.

While Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has already agreed to "take note" of non-binding agreements reached by previous Israeli delegations, the Syrians are willing to accept that the previous agreements will serve as a basis for talks in the future.

The new diplomatic ambiguity from Damascus is said to reflect a growing apprehension that Syria will again be left on the sidelines as Israel strikes a separate deal to create its troops from the security zone in south Lebanon.

Syria is concerned that it has been scuttled Israel's initiative over a withdrawal and is reportedly apprehensive over efforts by both Washington and Paris to encourage Lebanon to accept the plan, based on UN Resolution 425.

By the same token, the resumption of talks with Syria could remove some of the pressure on Netanyahu — from Washington and his own domestic constituency — to reach a deal with the Palestinians.

The newsletter quotes sources in Netanyahu's office as saying that he would go "a long way" to accommodate the Syrians.

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Mediterranean music fans enjoy a performance by Eli Luzzon on Mt. Scopus at a Friday morning Israel Festival concert, which became a focus of controversy when Avihu Medina opposed the singing of 'Shir Lashalom.'

## 'Shir Lashalom' concert turns sour

The Israel Festival concert "The Sun Rises from the East" at the Mount Scopus Amphitheater Friday morning turned into an evening of dispute and recriminations about Shir Lashalom (Song to Peace).

The event, which started before dawn, was originally intended to be a celebration of Mediterranean music. But it became embroiled in controversy when singer-songwriter Avihu Medina, speaking before it started, blasted the organizers for including the peace ballad at the

event's close.

"This is the private fantasy of someone who imposed the song on this evening," Medina told Army Radio. "If they would have asked me, I would have said there is no place for it, that we have plenty of our own peace songs and that it is unnecessary to bring this one, of all songs. This is simply a bolshevik dictatorship."

Margalit Tsanani, who was slated to sing Shir Lashalom, took issue with Medina. She said the song is "an authentic Israeli

song just like the songs of Medina. One could also ask 'What is a song of Medina doing at this or that evening of the Israel Festival?'"

But ultimately, Tsanani decided not to sing it, and Eli Luzzon stepped in to replace her.

The composer of the song, Ya'acov Rosenblit, said afterwards: "This song has overpowered stronger people than the spiritual midget Avihu Medina. I am surprised at the blatant racism in his pronouncements." (Tm)

# Swiss bank talks near collapse

Source: Banks offering Holocaust survivors less than \$550m.

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Talks between Swiss banks and Jewish groups over unclaimed Holocaust-era assets are near a breakdown after an analysis of a Swiss offer showed the banks would pay less than \$550 million, a source close to the talks said on Friday.

The source, who asked not to be identified, said there was a strong chance that a scheduled June 23 meeting between the two sides in Washington would not take place and that state and local finance officers across the US would renew their boycotts against Swiss financial institutions.

That was because an original offer of more than \$1 billion made by the big three Swiss banks earlier this month turned out to include hundreds of millions of dollars in funds that Holocaust survivors would receive regardless of whether a settlement was reached.

The source said that was money being found

by a special committee headed by former Federal Reserve Board chairman Paul Volcker. The committee is doing an audit of unclaimed accounts in all Swiss banks.

That audit was expected to produce more than \$700m. in unclaimed assets, including interest payments, that would be returned to survivors, their heirs and charitable groups, regardless of the negotiations.

Jewish leaders and lawyers for Holocaust survivors boycotted the latest round of the secretive talks with Swiss banks, Swiss newspaper *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* said early on Friday.

The three big Swiss banks involved in the US-brokered talks declined to comment on the newspaper report except to say that the negotiations were continuing.

"The talks continue," said a spokesman for Swiss Bank Corp., which is due to merge this month with Union Bank of Switzerland. The

third Swiss bank involved is Credit Suisse Group.

The banks and the Jewish groups are negotiating compensation for accounts whose records were destroyed after World War II and for gold and other assets looted from Jews that were sold to the Swiss banks by the Nazis during the war.

The source said the amount the Swiss banks were offering was about \$550m., adding that Jewish groups and lawyers representing Holocaust survivors in a series of class-action suits felt that was grossly inadequate.

A spokesman for the World Jewish Congress declined comment and also declined to confirm or deny that the June 23 meeting would take place.

If the talks collapse, the class-action lawyers would push to have claims heard as speedily as possible by a federal court in Brooklyn where the suit has been filed.

## CIA employee claims agency harassed him over 'Israel ties'

By HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON - A Jewish lawyer at the Central Intelligence Agency is considering suing the agency for harassing him during security checks as he was about to be transferred to a White House job last year.

Neal Sher, a Washington lawyer representing the plaintiff, Adam Ciralsky, said yesterday the action would constitute a "major lawsuit" for civil damages that "lays out how the treatment of him was just obnoxious, antisemitic and... is part of a broader practice throughout the national establishment."

Sher called the practice "offensive."

Ciralsky and the CIA have been discussing how the complaint can be resolved short of litigation, a source added.

Vice President Al Gore's legal counsel's office, as well as Rahm Emanuel - one of US President Bill Clinton's top advisers - are also involved in discussions on resolving the case, the source added.

Ciralsky has worked at the CIA since 1996 as an attorney in its honors program and last October was placed on administrative leave, with pay, as he was about to be rotated into duty at the National Security Council, Sher said.

According to the online magazine *Salon*, which broke the story, Ciralsky told an associate that he is a victim of a government "witch hunt" for employees spy-

ing for Israel.

Ciralsky is not suing against the polygraph being administered per se, but because of the CIA's harassment of him, including its raising "nasty allegations questioning his loyalty" to the US, Sher said.

The CIA made an issue of Ciralsky's being a distant relative of the late president Chaim Weizmann, Sher said.

Ciralsky's goals are to assume his NSC job, to have his record cleared and "to stop this profiling" of Jews, Sher added.

Sher said his client, as well as other Jews, are routinely harassed in the CIA through the administering of polygraph tests that ask "about ties to Jewish causes, Zionist causes, familial ties, Israeli ties, know, involvement with the UJA [United Jewish Appeal] - the most routine things."

Ciralsky had visited Israel as a college student, but "his contacts with Israel are no different from the contacts of the vast majority of American Jews," Sher said.

The Milwaukee-born Ciralsky has "never failed a polygraph test, as far as he knows" and has been cleared "several times before, and for no good reason they started administering these polygraph tests," Sher said.

## Anti-inflammatory drugs may help treat Alzheimer's disease

By JUDY SIEGEL

Since Alzheimer's disease involves inflammatory processes in the brain, "aspirin-like" anti-inflammatory drugs are being considered as a "therapeutic tool" against this type of dementia. This possibility will be discussed at a conference which opens today.

The 5th Tel Aviv University Alzheimer's Disease Conference is being organized on campus by two leading TAU experts in the field, Prof. Daniel Michaelson and Prof. Amos Korczyn. Several prominent researchers from the US, Holland and France will also attend.

The number of Alzheimer's patients in Israel is estimated at 60,000.

The risk of developing the disease rises with age, and due to increased longevity, about 10% of those over 75 and nearly half of those over 85 suffer from Alzheimer's. The progressive, fatal disease causes a gradual loss of memory and other intellectual functions such as judgment, thinking, calculation and the ability to operate complex instruments.

Patients develop confusion, depression and lack of orientation, putting a heavy burden on caregivers. One of the mecha-

nisms associated with Alzheimer's is an involuntary inflammatory reaction of the immune system. As a result, the body attacks its own neurological system and causes brain damage.

It will take a year or so to interpret data on anti-inflammatory drugs and their effect on Alzheimer's in humans, says Michaelson, who is currently designing a simple blood test for diagnosing the disease. Michaelson does not advise Alzheimer's patients to gobble down aspirin, as this can cause harm to the stomach, or other non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs).

Pharmaceutical companies are currently working on safer slow-release NSAIDs with fewer side effects, he said.

The conference will also discuss the possibility that cholesterol - which has a major role in heart disease and vascular ailments - may also be involved in Alzheimer's.

It is known that the configuration of the Apolipoprotein E (ApoE) molecule involved in the manufacture of low-density lipoprotein ("bad cholesterol") speeds degeneration in Alzheimer's patients by upsetting the balance of cholesterol in the brain.

## HEBREW PRESS REVIEW

By ORLY AHARONI

### Criticizing Bibi

Harsh criticism of Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs Yigal Bibi's attack against the legal system and Supreme Court President Aharon Barak dominated the weekend papers.

"Yigal Bibi does not understand why he cannot bend the judges to the political system he controls, as is customary in Tehran, and the heads of the mafia do not understand why they cannot bribe the courts as is customary in Mexico City," writes *Ma'ariv's* Yosef Lapid, adding that he believes in the unequivocal status of the courts on which the democratic system relies.

"Bibi threatens to chop off the hands of the court and the gangsters threaten to chop off the legs

of the judge. The purpose is the same: To put an end to the legal system in Israel and substitute it with the laws of the jungle."

*Ha'aretz* editorializes that the only innovation in the recent attack is the man behind the words. The fact that a public figure expressed himself this way should prevent him from continuing to function in his position, it says. It adds that a distinction should be drawn between legitimate criticism and a verbal assault which could have destructive results.

### Calls for silence

The statement by Brig.-Gen. Erez Gerstein, commander of the IDF liaison unit to Lebanon, that those who campaign for a unilateral withdrawal from Lebanon

endanger the lives of the soldiers "is absolute nonsense," writes *Ma'ariv's* Ofer Shaleh in his article titled, "Be a hero and shut up." He adds that he is puzzled by the trend in which the public does not attack the army and, instead, the officers complain about the public.

*Yedioth's* Ron Ben-Yishai states that although there is a factual basis for Gerstein's statements that the controversy in Israel over Lebanon increases Hizbullah's motivation to fight against Israeli soldiers, he has overrated the influence of the protest movements. Ben-Yishai adds that his statement was "unnecessary and damaging. Especially because it has needlessly and unjustifiably put the army in a position where it is taking an active stand in the political controversy."

## A Reminder to the Prime Minister of Israel

As you conclude the latest round of negotiations, and mindful of your profound appreciation of the historical parallels, I respectfully remind you of some of the highlights of a peace process conducted in the not-too-distant past.

**May 12, 1938** - Konrad Henlein, leader of the Sudeten-German SDP movement, meets with members of the British Government, informing them of the Sudeten-German proposal for peace, based on the following framework:

1. Sudeten German regions would control local autonomy in Czech occupied territories.
2. The autonomous Sudeten government would control local police, postal service and certain tax collections.
3. Disputes over territorial boundaries would be resolved by an international tribunal.

**September 7, 1938** - Henlein breaks off negotiations with the Czech Government, citing police excesses at Movarska-Ostrava.

**September 12, 1938** - Speaking in Nuremberg, Hitler calls for "justice to be given to the Sudeten Germans" by October 1.

**September 14, 1938** - Henlein delivers an ultimatum to the Czech Government, demanding:

1. Withdrawal of the Czech police from the "occupied" Sudetenland.
2. Separation of Czech military installations from the civilian population in Sudeten territories.

**September 21, 1938** - British and French diplomats inform Czech President Benes that surrender of the Sudetenland to Germany is "the only means of averting war..." and that if the Czechs refuse, they will "bear the responsibility for the war."

**September 22, 1938** - Chamberlain personally notifies Hitler that the British Government will accept German annexation of the Sudetenland. Hitler answers: "Ja, es tut mir leid, aber das geht nicht mehr." "Yes, I am very sorry, but that will no longer be acceptable. Hitler now insists that Polish and Hungarian territorial claims to Czechoslovakia must be resolved by October 1.

**September 23, 1938** - Hitler furnishes the British Government with his written proposal, calling for Czech evacuation of the Sudetenland in 48 hours, commencing the following Monday. Any Czech found on Reich soil will be arrested or shot as a trespasser.

**September 30, 1938** - The Czech Government accepts the German occupation of the Sudetenland, in return for formal French and British assurances, guaranteeing the sovereignty of the remainder of Czechoslovakia.

**November 2, 1938** - Hungary obtains 4,600 square miles of Czech territory, as a result of German "arbitration."

Neither the British nor the French governments take steps against this military occupation.

**March 15, 1939** - Czechoslovakia ceases to exist. Neither the French nor British governments intervene. Speaking in the House of Commons on October 3, 1938, immediately after the Munich Agreement was signed, Winston Churchill warned:

"...Do not suppose that this is the end. This is only the beginning of the reckoning. This is only the first sip - the first foretaste of a bitter cup which will be proffered to us year by year - unless, by a supreme recovery of our moral health and martial vigor, we arise again and take our stand for freedom, as in olden times."

**Mr. Prime Minister.** You did not set in motion the policies that make the Czech crisis of 1938 analogous to Israel's dilemma in 1998, but it is your duty to ensure that history does not repeat itself.

Former Naval Person

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# 30 Holocaust survivors to sue VW for back wages

By MARILYN HENRY

Thirty Hungarian-born Israelis, interned in Auschwitz and forced to work as slave laborers during World War II, plan to sue Volkswagen after the company refused to offer a settlement for back wages, a representative in Germany said Friday.

Klaus von Muenchhausen, a lecturer at Bremen University, said he was suing Volkswagen on behalf of the 30, who worked at the VW factory in Wolfsburg in armaments production in 1944-45. The VW case would be the second slave labor lawsuit in three months. In March, a lawsuit was filed against Ford Motor Company in a US federal court in New Jersey, charging it "made enormous profits" by using thousands of forced laborers "under utterly barbarous conditions" during World War II at its military truck factory in Cologne, Germany.

Speculation also has arisen about the obligations to compensate for slave labor against other

American parent companies, such as General Motors and the chemical giant du Pont.

In addition, advocates may seek to revisit previous slave labor settlements, including that against the German electronics giant Siemens, which paid DM 7 million to compensate slave laborers.

The company, however, refused to acknowledge any legal or moral obligation, Benjamin Ferencz, a former Nuremberg prosecutor, wrote in his account of forced labor, "Less than Slaves."

Along with Philips of the Netherlands, Siemens went on in the early 1960s to create the music company PolyGram, which was sold last month to Seagram for \$10.6 billion.

Seagram, the spirits and entertainment company, is led by Edgar Bronfman, the president of the World Jewish Congress and the man who has been at the forefront of demand that Switzerland make "moral and material restitution" for its war-time trade with the Nazis.

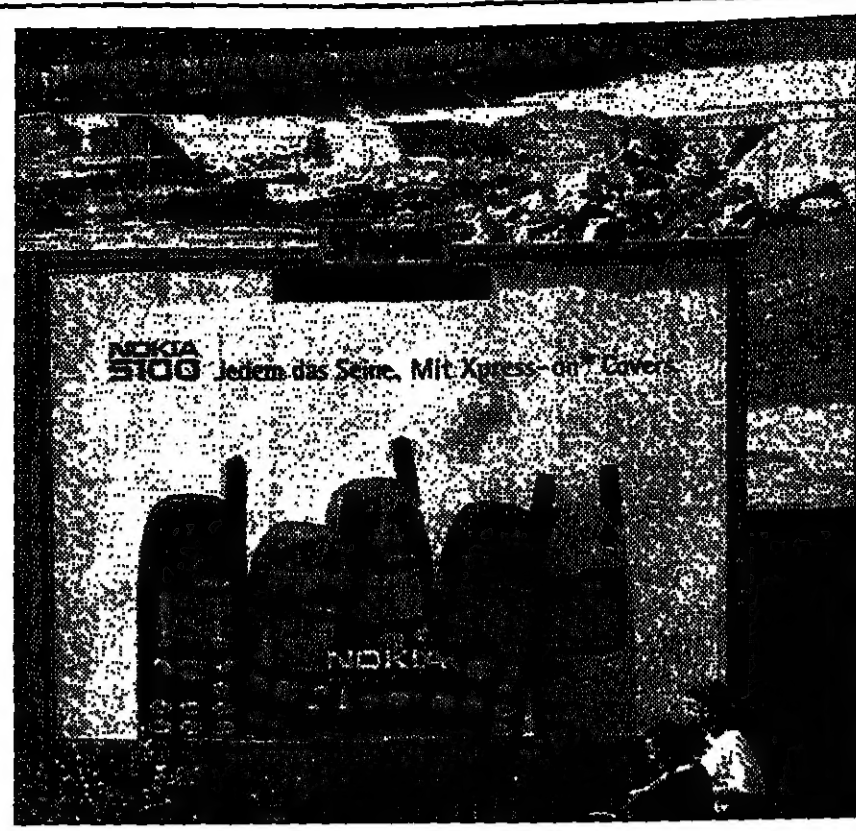
In Germany, von Muenchhausen said he decided to take VW to court after the company said it had no intention of making individual wage payments to former slave laborers.

He quoted VW spokesman Klaus Kocks as saying on German television on June 4 that it was impossible to determine what a fair payment would be and that VW would instead donate money to east European countries to fight fascism there.

Von Muenchhausen calculated that the laborers were each owed around \$28,000, based on what a German employee would have earned working in a local plant between 1944 and 1945.

A VW spokesman did not return calls to news agencies seeking comment.

Bone, which has paid more than \$58 billion in reparations to Nazi victims, has refused to honor wage claims by those who survived Nazi forced labor, contending that the laborers technically worked for private companies.



## Poor taste in Berlin

A billboard advertising Nokia mobile phones in front of the construction site of the German Holocaust Museum in Berlin uses the slogan 'Jedem das Seine' (Everyone gets his due), the same slogan which was posted at the entrance to Buchenwald. (AP)

## Jaffee Center: Israel needs US shield against nuke threat

By ARNOLD O'SULLIVAN

Israel must maintain strong security ties with the United States as the best answer to the growing threat of nuclear weapons, said Prof. Shai Feldman, head of the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies.

Feldman said that Israel's passive and active defense doctrines against weapons of mass-destruction are also contingent on strong security ties with Washington.

"The Israeli answer to a nuclear threat needs cooperation between the Israeli and American security establishments," Feldman said. "Israel must beware of straining these relations with the United States." He made these comments prior to a conference on "Challenges to Global and Middle East Security," which begins tomorrow at Tel Aviv University.

The conference, organized by both the ICSS and the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard, has assembled top security experts from around the world, including former deputy US secretaries of defense.

According to Feldman, the conference is to focus on the dangers of the proliferation of non-conventional weapons in the Middle East, including chemical and biological weapons and ballistic missiles, but particularly nuclear weapons.

Feldman said that Israel's current doctrine to protect itself from the non-conventional threat - which includes the need for real-time warning of any launch of ballistic missiles - demands close cooperation with the United States. These ties are the key to whether Israel will be able to successfully deal with the strategic threats facing it, he maintained.

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## How to travel to Israel

### TEL AVIV



## Nigerian rioters dispersed by firearms

By DULUE MBACHU

LAGOS (Reuters) — Nigerian police used tear gas and fired shots in the air on Friday to disperse Lagos demonstrators protesting against new military ruler General Abdulsalam Abubakar.

Police battled a group of around 200 demonstrators, who dispersed and regrouped at several locations in the city of eight million.

Veteran opposition leader Gani Fawehinmi collapsed after breathing tear gas and was taken away by police, but there were no immediate reports of deaths or serious injuries. Witnesses said at least five people had been arrested.

The first protest against Abubakar's authority marks the fifth anniversary of 1993 elections, whose annulment by soldiers is the raw nerve at the root of the West African country's political and economic rot.

The protests were stirred by Abubakar's commitment to follow the discredited democracy plan of predecessor General Sani Abacha, who died suddenly on Monday after more than four years of iron-fisted rule over the oil-producing country of 104 million.

"The death of General Abacha has not in any way changed any of the dictatorial habits of military rule," a statement from the United Action for Democracy opposition group said.

Demonstrations were reported from Nigeria's second biggest city Ibadan, 100 km from Lagos and also a small peaceful gathering of activists at Kaduna in northern Nigeria.

But in most of Nigeria and the capital Abuja, there was no sign of disturbances. Business had yet to regain its usual pace as Abubakar continued meetings with Abacha's ministers, officials and politicians to determine his next moves.

The oil ministry said the change in leadership had delayed a crucial decision on whether Nigeria would follow other oil producing countries to cut output in a bid to boost prices of the commodity, which accounts for 95 percent of export earnings.

There were welcoming signs for Abubakar from local financial markets as figures for demand at the central bank's weekly sale of hard currency dropped to \$86 million from \$131 million.

Dealers said it showed the change in leader had stemmed capital flight.

Western countries, concerned with the plight of scores of political prisoners jailed by Abacha, have not so far been heavily critical of the new regime.

For first time since '92

# Japanese economy shrinks

By KEN BELSON

TOKYO (Bloomberg) — Japan's economy fell into recession for the first time in six years, threatening to delay recovery throughout the rest of Asia.

Japan's gross domestic product shrank 1.3 percent in the first three months of the year from the previous quarter, or 5.3% at an annualized rate, the government said.

Economists usually define a recession as six months of contraction. Japan's economy shrank by 0.7% for the year ended March 31, the first full-year decline since oil prices soared after the Yom Kippur War.

"The Japanese economy is at sea," said Sadao Iwaya, executive vice president of TDK Corp., a tape and floppy-disc maker. "Japanese and Asian markets won't recover this year."

The worse-than-expected performance is likely to lead to more pressure on the government from Japanese companies and the country's trading partners to take steps to revive economic growth.

They may be disappointed. The nation's chief economic planner said Japan's 1.9% growth target for this year is "attainable," suggesting the government won't act until it gauges the impact of its latest, 16.65 trillion yen (\$115 billion) spending-increase and tax-cut package.

Private economists reckon the government's plan will fall well short of the mark. They expect growth of just 0.6% this year, meaning it will provide little lift for other troubled Asian economies.

Help can't come soon enough for Japan's beleaguered neighbors. Countries from South Korea to Thailand and Indonesia are counting on the region's economic powerhouse to lead them out of their own slumps.

Japan is the biggest export market for many Asian nations and by far their biggest source of capital, both bank loans and direct investment. The prospect that the world's second-biggest economy will be more millstone than life preserver for the region sent stock and currency prices tumbling across Asia this week.

"The risk is great for Asia's recovery, or lack thereof," said Lawrence Speldell, head of research at Nicholas-Applegate Capital Management in San Diego, California. "The rest of Asia is already suffering the impact, and the situation continues to worsen." Of the \$2b. Nicholas-Applegate invests outside the US, just 5% is in Japan.

"The burden falls more heavily now than ever before on China to be even handed, even tempered and mature," since it will be the only economy in Asia registering significant growth this year, Speldell said.

That makes it critical that China not devalue its currency, the yuan.



An exhausted trader on the Tokyo Stock Exchange survives the end of another turbulent trading week on Friday, as the Nikkei index at one point dipped under the 15,000 point-level for the first time since January. (AP)

in response to Japan's weak economy, and the recent slump in the yen.

The first-quarter slide in Japan was much worse than the 0.4% contraction forecast by economists in a Bloomberg survey.

The economy's weakness has helped drive the dollar up 10% against the yen so far this year as investors bet the US economy would continue to outperform Japan's in coming months.

The dollar climbed to 144.77 yen, an eight-year high, before retreating to 143.87 in recent trading. Many traders expect the US currency will continue to rise. "The 150 yen level is just around the corner," said Hirokazu Noto, chief trader at Sumitomo Bank Ltd.

Japanese politicians and government officials have repeatedly called on the US and other major economic powers to help boost the yen, a plea that's so far fallen on deaf ears.

US Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin said yesterday the yen's decline reflects the failure of Japan to take effective steps to boost its economy.

The yen's weakness "can only be remedied by restoring economic strength in Japan," he told the Senate Finance Committee.

Those remarks helped trigger the biggest one-day slump of the yen against the dollar in a year.

The government of Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said the decline in the first three months

of the year was an aberration that would soon be reversed.

"The first-quarter number does not reflect the true state of the economy," said Shinpei Nukaya, deputy director-general of the Economic Planning Agency, though he said the economy is in "bad shape."

Nukaya attributed the poor performance to "financial problems at home and the currency turmoil in Asia." What alarms governments elsewhere in Asia is the prospect that Japan's slump will make their own troubles worse.

Japan imported 1.4% less in the January-March period, and the prospects of reversing that trend anytime soon look dim.

Exports — about the only source of strength as domestic demand slides — fell 3.8%.

The fall in exports to Asia — the destination for 35% of Japan's goods — came as economies from Korea to Indonesia fell into recession in the wake of the sharp falls in their currencies' values over the past year.

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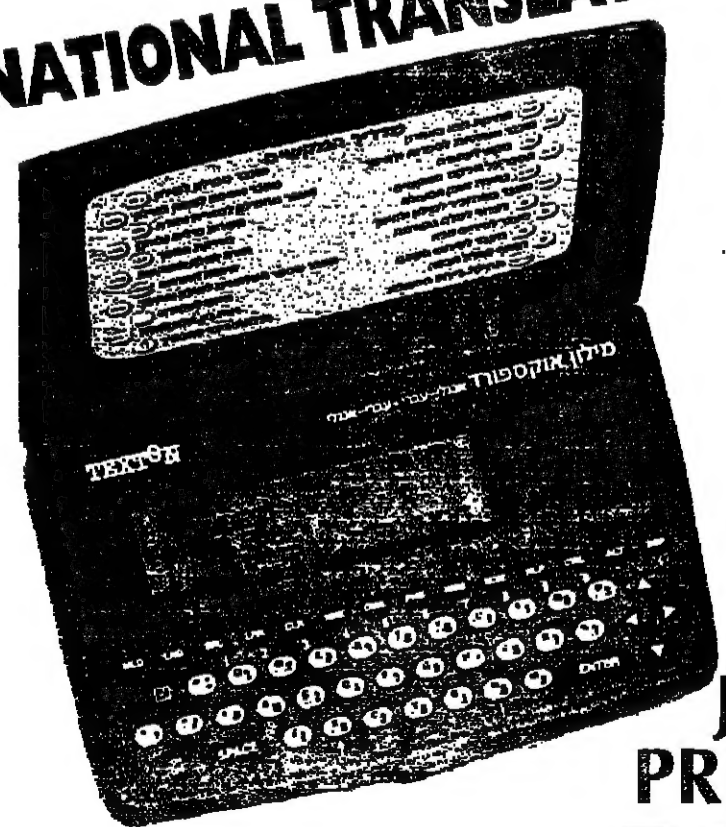
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## G-8 halts India, Pakistan loans

By JOHN MORRISON

LONDON (Reuters) — The Group of Eight industrial powers decided on Friday to halt most loans by international financial institutions to India and Pakistan in protest of their nuclear tests last month.

But, anxious not to isolate the new Asian nuclear states, foreign ministers from the US, Russia, Japan, Germany, France, Britain, Italy and Canada combined the credit freeze with offers of assistance.

"Our message to both nations is that we cannot and will not reward you for the mistakes that you have made," US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright told a news conference after the London meeting. "But neither do we intend to isolate you or treat you as outcasts. If you're serious about digging yourselves out of the hole you've created, we'll do what we can to help."

The London meeting was called after India and Pakistan shocked the world with their first series of underground nuclear explosions last month.

The blasts triggered fears of a new nuclear arms race in Asia and concern that other near-nuclear states around the world might decide to detonate nuclear weapons.

The G-8 said in a statement after the meeting that it is important to show India and Pakistan the strength of feeling in the international community about the tests.

Hence the freeze on new lending by international financial institutions — although loans for humanitarian purposes are exempt.

New International Monetary Fund and World Bank credits had effectively been frozen since Washington imposed sweeping economic sanctions on both countries last month after their ill-fated atomic tests.

That has already cost India

money. A US official said over \$1 billion in World Bank loans had been postponed since India's tests on May 11 and May 13.

Pakistan on Friday unveiled a "budget of self-reliance" to counter sanctions, vowing to save "every dollar for our security and essential imports."

Countries that have renounced

atomic weapons — such as South Africa, Ukraine and Brazil — were invited to London on Friday and held up as an example.

"It is they, not India and Pakistan, who represent the trend in the modern world," British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook said at a final news conference after hosting the meeting.

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#### Butler back in Baghdad

UN chief weapons inspector Richard Butler speaks to the media in Baghdad on Thursday. Iraq claims it has destroyed all its weapons of mass destruction, as required by the UN Security Council, and that the UN must now lift the economic sanctions imposed after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Butler says he needs more evidence from the Iraqis to support their claims.

## Belgrade warns NATO against Kosovo intervention

By MISHA SAVIC

BELGRADE (AP) — The Yugoslav army doesn't want conflict with NATO but will be forced to defend its territory if the alliance intervenes in secessionist Kosovo, a top aide to Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic says.

Neighboring Albania and Macedonia on Friday hastily approved exercises by NATO — most likely simulated air raids — in the air over their countries. The exercises may start as soon as today.

Zoran Lilic, a close Milosevic aide who was Yugoslavia's president until last year and is now a deputy premier, told The Associated Press he does not regard violence in the southern province of Kosovo as all-out war with dangerous regional consequences. It is just a clash "between security forces and the terrorists" of the Kosovo Liberation Army, he said.

The KLA, which emerged in 1996, is trying to win independence for Kosovo, where about 90 percent of the population is

Albanian.

"We know that in a clash with NATO — it's stupid even to think about that — we don't stand a chance," Lilic said. "But it is its [Yugoslav army's] duty to defend the territory against anybody who tries to enter by force." More than 250 people have died in clashes since government forces in March began a crackdown on the KLA. Fighting has escalated since, with the KLA claiming to control up to 40 percent of Kosovo countryside, while key towns and roads remain in Serb hands.

Milosevic revoked the province's broad autonomy in 1989, trying to quash Albanians' push for independence and claiming to protect Kosovo Serbs.

But nine years of heavy-handed rule by Serbia, the dominant republic in Yugoslavia, have only fanned demands for independence. The peaceful course pursued by ethnic Albanian political leaders is losing ground to KLA militancy.

Kosovo's Albanians, protesting Serbia's rule, have boycotted all Serbian elections since 1990, and

founded alternative schools and hospitals since being sacked or quitting most state jobs that year.

Lilic called on ethnic Albanians to use the rights they still have and thus win local elections and return to Serbia's parliament, where they can easily win at least 30 of the 250 seats.

Lilic denied that government forces are behaving brutally toward Albanian civilians. Foreign diplomats allowed into the region of the most recent severe fighting in western Kosovo saw scenes of devastation reminiscent of Bosnia, with houses burned and shelled.

Lilic said the United States should persuade the Albanian militants to cease fire, adding that action by government forces would then automatically stop.

Montenegrin President Milo Djukanovic, who is at odds with Milosevic, indicated Friday he might eventually withdraw Montenegrin recruits from the federal Yugoslav army if it became implicated in atrocities.

In Kosovo itself, Albanians welcomed a show of NATO air power

as a way of trying to get Milosevic to stop using force.

As the first in former Yugoslavia to feel Milosevic's power — at least 25 Kosovo Albanians were killed when he stripped their autonomy from them in 1989 — they say it's time the man who went on to foment war in Croatia and Bosnia gets taught a lesson.

"America can, and should, do it," said Erol Haxhiu, 46, a former postman who now sells jewelry in the Pristina market.

Although NATO so far only threatens force, "it is by far the most serious threat to Milosevic regarding Kosovo," said Agon Musaraj, 23, a law student. "As we already saw in Bosnia, Milosevic respects only force." Some Kosovo Serbs seemed resigned to NATO bombing, used in 1995 against the Bosnian Serbs. Others were defiant.

"If they attack us, they'll be attacking a sovereign country," said Jovan Banjanin, 40, who refused to state his occupation. "We will have to defend ourselves, and this has nothing to do with the ethnic Albanians issue."

#### Most Greek Cypriots:

## Deploy missiles even at risk of war

By ALEX EFTY

NICOSIA (AP) — The majority of Greek Cypriots support the deployment of Russian anti-aircraft missiles even if this leads to war, said an opinion poll published Friday.

In a related development, government spokesman Christos Stylianides said Friday that Cyprus would proceed with the deployment, due within a few months, unless there is progress in peace talks for the reunification of the island.

Turkey has vowed to prevent the S-300 missiles being deployed at a newly built air base outside the southwest town of Paphos, saying they threaten its air superiority in the region.

The poll, commissioned by the weekly magazine *Selides*, found that 72 percent of respondents want the deployment to go ahead.

14 percent want it postponed, 13 percent oppose it, and 1 percent is uncertain.

No less than 74 percent of those supporting the deployment believe Turkey will carry out its threat to prevent the delivery of the missiles or to attack them after their deployment.

Greece, which has a defense pact with Cyprus, has warned it will come to the aid of Cyprus if Turkey attacks. The exchange of warnings between Greece and Turkey raises the prospect of war between the two allies in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

The polling company AMER conducted the survey by telephone this week with a random sample of 689 people, aged 18-65, in the Greek Cypriot part of Cyprus. AMER gave no margin of error.

The poll was carried out as local media relayed a series of reports about the missiles, sometimes

contradictory.

The Moscow newspaper *Sogodnya* said Tuesday Cyprus had already received the S-300 missiles, but the head of Russia's Rosvooruzheniya arms trading monopoly, Yevgeny Ananyev, denied this. He said the missiles would arrive between mid-July and August.

The Turkish newspaper *Hurriyet* reported Friday that Turkish intelligence has found that radar and control panels for the missiles have already reached Cyprus.

Greek Foreign Minister Theodoros Pangalos said Thursday the missiles would not be ready for delivery until "sometime in November." The Cypriot government declined to comment on the reports.

On Friday, Stylianides played down fears of war over the missiles' deployment. He said both the United States and the European

Union would intervene to prevent war breaking out, "though this cannot be ruled out 100 percent." US State Department Special Coordinator for Cyprus Thomas Miller said in Washington this week that if Turkey did attack the missiles, it would have serious repercussions on Turkish relations with the United States.

Stylianides reiterated that Cyprus would not deploy the missiles if Turkey accepted its proposals for demilitarizing the island. Turkey has rejected this.

Cyprus has been split into a Greek Cypriot controlled south and a Turkish-occupied north since Turkey invaded and occupied the northern third of the island in 1974 in the wake of a coup by supporters of union with Greece. A breakaway Turkish Cypriot state established in the north is only recognized by Turkey, which maintains 35,000 troops there.

## Viagra-popping man, 89, held for sexually assaulting woman, 34

ORLANDO, Florida (AP) — An 89-year-old man was charged with attempted murder for allegedly clubbing a 34-year-old woman with a crowbar after she rejected his Viagra-charged advances.

Larry Demorest, who was arrested and jailed Thursday, said the woman made up the story. "She convinced people I went sex crazy," he said. "The whole thing is a big lie."

Kimberly Hearlet, who has lived at Demorest's home off and on for

10 years and said they had a romantic relationship, told sheriff's deputies that Demorest popped a Viagra, then tried to kill her after she refused to perform sex for money.

She said his passion had been building since Tuesday, when a prostitute ran off with his money.

Hearlet, who has had 18 arrests on charges of drug use, assault and prostitution, was treated at a hospital.

At least four friends and rela-

tives of Demorest said Hearlet was injured in a drunken head-first fall.

Demorest, who is widower, said his doctor prescribed the Viagra. He said a painful case of shingles has kept him from amorous pursuits for months.

"I might look good, but I'm still pushing 100," he said.

"For a man my age, I've got more than normal drive. With the right partner I can get along, but I don't pay prostitutes and stuff like that."

## Another train collision in Germany; 37 hurt

BONN (Reuters) — German police said that 37 people were injured on Friday when two local trains crashed into each other near the southern town of Bad Schoenborn.

A police spokesman in Karlsruhe said that among those hurt, 12 people had suffered moderate injuries and one person was suffering from serious injuries, but these were not life threatening.

"The cause of the accident is not yet known," the spokesman said, adding the trains were travelling at slow speeds.

"It is under investigation. The two motor cars were demolished in the collision. It was not yet possible to interview the drivers." The spokesman said that originally a total of 42 people were said to have suffered injuries, but that number had been revised

down to 37.

He said it was not known why the two trains were both on the single-track line headed in opposite directions.

Local buses were used to transport passengers who were not injured.

The crash followed post-World War Two Germany's worst railway accident last Wednesday, in which 98 people were killed.

## Clinton bans offshore oil drilling until 2012

By STEVE HOLLAND

MONTEREY, Calif. (Reuters) — President Bill Clinton came to the fragile rocky shore of Monterey Bay on Friday to extend a ban on offshore oil development to 2012 in order to protect US coasts from the threat of oil spills.

"It is clear we must save these shores from oil drilling," Clinton said at the National Oceans Conference.

Clinton, beginning a long weekend of travel in California and Oregon, outlined a broad array of initiatives to protect against pollu-

tion and overfishing after he and Vice President Al Gore toured a tidal pool for a look at the fragile ecosystem on Monterey's rocky coast.

Clinton ordered a ban on the sale or import of undersized Atlantic swordfish, those under 15 kg., and proposed spending \$194 million over five years to implement the ban and take other measures to reduce overfishing in US waters and protect habitats.

He proposed an \$800m. program to modernize American ports over the next five years to deepen and maintain shipping channels and improve navigational safety. The

money would be raised by a fee that shippers would pay. Congress would need to approve the proposal.

Clinton appealed to the Republican-led Senate to clear the way for the US to join the Law of the Sea Convention, which provides the international legal framework for governing activities at sea.

He signed an order directing federal agencies to expand efforts to protect endangered coral reefs, and proposed spending \$6m. through 2002 to help restore 18 damaged reefs in US waters.

Clinton signed a directive that extends by 10 years the moratorium on oil and gas drilling under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act. The current ban expires in 2002.

This will cover virtually all of

the US coasts off California, Washington, Oregon, southwest Florida, New England, the Mid-Atlantic and southern Alaska. The Gulf of Mexico, source of much drilling, was not affected.

His decision to extend the oil ban reflected an effort to find a middle ground between California officials and environmentalists, who wanted him to declare a permanent ban on oil and gas leasing along their coast, and the oil industry, which wants the option of exploring for more petroleum resources on the outer continental shelf.

"The bottom line is the president has really charted the most prudent course here," said Katie McGinty, chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality.

But the US oil and natural gas

industries were critical.

The American Petroleum Institute said the decision was "particularly bad policy at a time of record US energy imports" and "ignores the near-perfect performance of the American petroleum industry in operating offshore in a safe and environmentally sensitive manner."

But Clinton said: "Even in the best of circumstances, is it really worth the risk?"

Clinton also placed a permanent ban on drilling in all areas of the outer continental shelf contained within fragile marine sanctuaries, including the Channel Islands and Monterey Bay sanctuaries in California, the Florida Keys, Grays Reef in Georgia and the Olympic Coast off Washington state.

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The meeting will take place on Monday, June 15th, 1998 at 6:00 p.m. at the Laromme Hotel, Jerusalem

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# The little theater that Khan

By HELEN KAYE

O fira Henig has coaxed veteran director Yossi Izraeli into directing Ibsen's *Women from the Sea*, at the Jerusalem-based Khan Theater, the first time in seven years that he's consented to direct on the Israeli stage. Yoram Hattab, one of the Khan's stars, is joining the Khan ensemble of actors, and the word is out that he's only one of a long line.

Some of the most exciting, provocative and intelligent theater in the country is coming out of the Khan, where Henig is going into her third season as artistic director. And (surprise, surprise), the Khan productions are also a box-office success, starting with the phenomenal *Anna Galactia* in Henig's first season and continuing through *Killer Joe* and *Blue Remembered Hills* by the late Dennis (The Singing Detective) Potter in this one.

The upcoming '98/99 season continues Henig's commitment to the creation of actor-centered and strongly political theater, or a theater which apprehends the actor as part of the creative process rather than as a tool, and regards as essential "involvement at every level with what's happening around us," she says.

"This does not mean through current affairs translated to the stage but through allegory."

The Khan plans four to five productions, two of which use the entire company and others which divide the company among small cast plays so that these can run simultaneously. New Israeli plays in process are *Anatomy of Repentance* by Yosefa Even-Shushan, author of the thoughtful *The Virgin of Ladder*, and *Strak or Blank* by prize-winning poet Ya'akov Eyal.

Written specifically for this ensemble and based on a talmudic legend, Even-Shushan's new play asks questions about the essence of *teshuvah* (repentance). Eyal's play - his first - is a thriller built around the contract killing of a local underworld don.

The one definite Israeli play



The Khan Theater presents Dennis Potter's 'Blue Remembered Hills.'

slated for production is Gilad Eylon's *Skies* (*Shamayim*), about a nightclub owner who wants glitz and gets art. Henig will direct it following the Ibsen play, which will open the season in October.

Other plays under consideration from the world and classic repertory are Ariel Dorfman's *Widows*, concerning village women fighting the tyrannies of a national militia in Greece during world War II; *The Castle* by Howard Barker, author of *Anna Galactia*,

which is set in the Middle Ages and pits the exercise of power against the forces of humanism; and *Les Aukres* by Jean-Claude Grumberg.

The four one-act plays all address racism and/or xenophobia and may be directed by four young directors, says Henig, who is nurturing such along with playwrights, designers and other creative theater folk.

Still to come this season is Yasmina (Art) Reza's

*Conversations after a Funeral*, the funeral in question being that of the family's father. Roni Nino will direct, and the production opens mid-June.

The closing show is *Measure for Measure*, to be directed by Gadi Roll, in which Hattab will play the duke who returns to his city in disguise to observe how his trusted deputy abuses power in the name of principle.

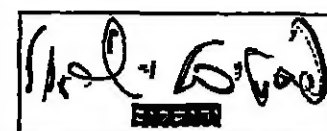
Henig's principles have brought an all-around increase in the the-

ater's fortunes. Its 1997 earnings went up some 40 percent from 1996, and 37 percent more audience came to see its shows on a subscriber base of 4,000.

The Kahn gets its funding from the Ministry of Education and Culture, the Jerusalem municipality and the Jerusalem Foundation, which this year cut its subsidy to the theater by some 80 percent.

This year's budget is about NIS 12 million, of which NIS 3 m. will be earned income.

## Shaking the consensus of the Zionist dream



### ISRAEL FESTIVAL REVIEWS

Eight Israeli choreographers created short works influenced by current sociopolitical issues that threaten to shake the last consensus of the Zionist dream. The dance world, once elitist and far removed from our daily existence, seems much more

#### DON'T WORRY, BE HAPPY

Gerard Behar

June 6

involved nowadays and, as such, is more relevant and accessible.

The evening was a showcase of some of the talented and experienced fringe dance makers (a few good ones were missing), which successfully drew a multifaceted scene. Several of the works contained enough substance well worth future development.

*Offside* by Al-Kuds is a harsh, sleek and loud look at the way our values lose their footing.

*Shoshana*, by Barak Marshall, carries the sounds of the market to the stage with the ease of one for whom crossing between cultures comes naturally.

*Hamsin* by Noa Verthum & Adi She'el and *Stepping on Eggs* by Ido Tadmor both have the potential to become full-bodied works of interest.

Using the prayer "Shema Yisrael" (impressively sung by cantor-singer Ofer Callaf) as musical background and the *talit* for costume design, marks a

shift toward using more extreme means in the complex quest for defining our identity.

Ora Brafman

The joint performance of the Israel Andalusian Orchestra and the pop group Tea Packs was largely a gimmick, designed to demonstrate the amalgamation of the incompatible. In fact, each did its own thing, without much

#### MOROCCAN-JEWISH AND ISRAELI SONGS

The Israel Andalusian Orchestra &amp; Tea Packs

Jerusalem Theater

June 9

noticeable interaction between the two. The orchestra did more or less what it does all year long, presenting its Andalusian-based Moroccan repertoire in arrangements by its conductor, Avi Ilam-Amzaleg, fairly faithfully to the traditional versions.

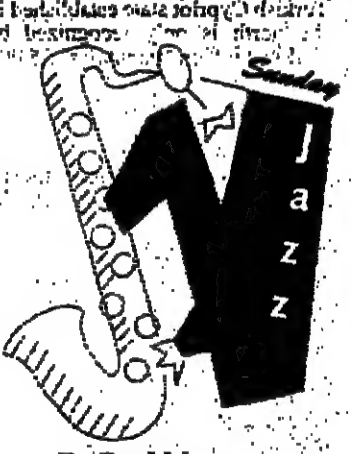
Tea Packs, likewise, offered mainly its own repertoire in a routine-like, entertaining manner, contributing energizing though alien-sounding rhythms to the Andalusians in their collaborative efforts. In Tea Packs's favor, it can be said that in the Andalusian pieces, they stayed modestly in the background, except for a captivating, authentically Arab-style violin solo by Nuriel Amar and an exciting, highly imaginative guitar solo by Rami Yossipov.

The Andalusians' most outstanding asset is their solo singer Emil Zrihan. His unique high-pitched, warbling, characteristically Moroccan-style, melismatic voice is a fascinating phenomenon.

Tea Packs's soloist, Kobi Oz emceed, clowned, moved convulsively, danced and, when not otherwise busy, also sang, radiating self-confidence.

Ury Eppstein

## Tall drinks and moonbeams



By David Isaacson

Most saxophonists, especially young ones, try to ape the virtuosity of Charlie Parker or John Coltrane. Tenor Joe Henderson stands out as a result of his low-key, modest approach.

"Lazy Afternoon," the fine, slow opening cut on *Ballads & Blues*, could be the sound track to a languid summer's day complete with good company and long tall drinks. It's taken from drummer Pete LaRoca's 1965 album *Basra*. Similarly, the next track, "La Mesha," (from

#### BALLADS & BLUES

Joe Henderson

(NMC)

#### GREAT MOMENTS WITH

Pharoah Sanders

(Jazz Day)

"Lazy Afternoon" and features the light, fluent touch of the young McCoy Tyner.

On "Out of the Night" (also from *Page One*), Henderson, who was only 26 at the time, comes into his own as a songwriter. The song is a fairly standard blues tune but Henderson creates boundless space for himself. Dorham and pianist Tyner, "You Know I Care," on which Elvin Jones replaces Pete LaRoca, completes a foursome of soft, listener-friendly numbers.

Fast forward 21 years to Henderson's trio with bassist Ron Carter and drummer Al Foster for three more modern cuts taken from sessions at the

before a show in Hamburg, claiming he didn't know he was due to play with saxophonist and flutist Yusuf Lateef, despite having sat next to him all the way from New York.

Sanders's hallmarks - exotic headgear, long white goatee, screaming sax - are those of a wild but lovable eccentric. The compilation *Great Moments With* includes only hints of Sanders's intense wail, which can sound like anything from squeezing a balloon's neck to tearing at metal sheets.

Sanders played in one of Coltrane's later lineups and was one of his most faithful disciples; here, following two characteristically exuberant cuts from *This Is for You*, John comes Sanders's take on "Naima," the love song Coltrane penned for his first wife. When you cover a master's work, you're just asking to be compared, and Sanders has none of Coltrane's richness, depth or range. Still, it's a nice, flowing arrangement.

"Africa," which emulates Coltrane's landmark disc *African Brass*, is a typical Sanders number: strong, strutting rhythm, chants and echoes, a major restart

AT THE other extreme, fellow-tenor Pharoah Sanders has a reputation for craziness, on and off stage. According to one anecdote, he threw a fit five minutes



Joe Henderson

and, of course, the wild sax. Conversely, on the delicate "Polka Dots and Moonbeams" it sounds as though butter wouldn't melt in his sax. This is one of several recordings Sanders made of this standard, and all the ones I've heard are superb. *Great Moments With* closes with the long, groovy "Moniebah," which shows what a difference a book makes.

Pharoah Sanders is definitely a taste worth acquiring if you like your music loud and exciting.

## Hope amid fin-de-siècle loss of innocence

Sabra Sounds



By Emily Hauser

Both the discs we'll be looking at as we stroll down memory lane in this week's

column fall into a clearly defined category. They're both outstanding debut efforts, made by bands I really wish had stayed together long enough to produce at least one more disc.

Ta'arvet Ascot comprised three men who are by now better known for their subsequent solo careers: Assaf Amduksi, Jeremy Kaplan and Jango. (Amir Ronssiano). With Amduksi on guitar, Jango on bass and Kaplan on drums, the three created tight, early Nineties rock, replete with well-placed references to Sixties and Seventies pop.

Amduksi and Jango share songwriting credits on all but one

#### TA'ARVET ASCOT

Ta'arvet Ascot

(Red Art)

★★★★

#### PETZA'IM VE'NESHKOT

Monika Sex

(Red Art)

★★★★

of the songs. Their lyrics reflect a late 20th-century loss of innocence, while the music keeps the mood light and just a wee bit hopeful.

"My best friends are going far away to places I don't know," the boys sing on "Ve'ulai Tavo Ezech Nehama" ("And Maybe There'll Be Some Consolation"). "I stay on top of the floor and under the ceiling near the wall/ And maybe there'll be some consolation/ and maybe not/ boop shooob doo wah, shooob doob wah hey!" Kaplan penned only one track, but it's a terrific little tune and a fair predictor of his future career. In "Ani Lo Muchana Latzet Me'kan" ("I'm Not Leaving"), Kaplan takes the ultimate Everyperson experience - birth - and spins a sweet rock ballad, the lyrics of which both celebrate his as yet unborn niece and examine the complexity of the human

experience: "Alone/ inside a balcony/ Noa waits to be born/ A little light/ a little air/ but very close to her mother's heart/ She hears her yelling/ wonders, is the next world going to be like that?/ Forget it/ I'm not leaving."

I'm not arguing with the breakup. All three members of Ta'arvet Ascot have proven that they had things they needed to do on their own. But I do wish they'd pulled their act together at least one more time, just to see what would have come of it. I have a feeling that *Ta'arvet Ascot II* would have been great.

MONIKA Sex's first and (so far) final musical statement was bolder than Ta'arvet Ascot's - louder, more demanding, cynical while both amused and heartbroken by skepticism.

Take, for instance, "San José." With a healthy dose of the Beatles in the mix, soloist Yali Sobol belts out a kind of despair and disregard for despair that Lennon and McCartney wouldn't have touched. "She went to San José and cut her wrists/ She overdosed on sun and palm trees... I picked her up at the airport/ with bandages on her arms, she was beautiful/ like a gift in wrapping paper." "Kol Ha'hevre" ("The Whole Gang"), on the other hand, quietly delivers a stinging indictment of society's complacency in the face

of rape. "The whole gang went through you as if you were public property," Sobol sings. "(They're) sorry that the thing got so messy/ and remorse and all that crap so why don't they stop smiling/ and the judge reduced their sentence because you didn't yell and you weren't a virgin..."

Then there's "Har Shel Beigalach" ("A Mountain of Bagels") - about a man who gets arrested for selling bagels on the corner without a permit.

In short, just when you thought you had Monika Sex pegged, you'd find you were wrong - and that was a big part of what was so exciting when they hit the airwaves. The end came after Sobol and band mates Peter Roth, Shahar Even-Zur and Yossi Hamami decided to try their luck on the rock scene of New York City. I don't know the details, but a couple of years later, they are clearly no longer functioning as a band. More's the pity.

Our own rock scene still desperately needs what they gave us back in 1995.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

Q: What's the connection between Monika Sex and Ta'arvet Ascot?  
A: Associate Jeremy Kaplan produced Monika Sex's *Petza'im Ve'neshekot*.

TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15				
THIS LAST WEEK'S ON WEEK-CHARTS				
#1	1	13	DANA INTERNATIONAL	DIVA - BEST OF
#2	2	12	EMMA SHAPLIN	CARMINE MEO
#3	3	23	VIA	JUBILEE CELEBRATION
#4	11	14	MICHA SHEETRIT	MASHMERIM V'NOTZOT
#5	4	14	MADONNA	RAY OF LIGHT
#6	13	2	BEN ARTZI	HAIM MISH-EL ATZMI
#7	22	9	ACHINAM NINI	& PHILHARMONIC ORCH.
#8	21	23	HAIM MOSHE	HATMUNOT SHE
#9	6	7	MASSIVE ATTACK	MEZZANINE
#10	25	11	VIA	AVODA IVRIT
#11	16	3	ALABINA	ALABINA
#12	12	3	VIA	KOLOT MIN HASHAMAM
#13	7	9	VIA	NOW 39
#14	15	3	FRANK SINATRA	MY WAY - BEST OF
#15	9	3	HAZVU'IM	BZZZZ

Tower Records' top-selling albums for last week



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## The same Nigeria

It has taken Nigeria's new dictator only five days to dash the nation's hopes that his regime would be any better than that of the late and unlamented Sani Abacha.

Massed police and military forces on Friday quickly crushed a planned demonstration by democracy activists and arrested a leading dissident. It is more of the same old Abacha formula of might over right—the country is still ruled from a barracks. The rule of law has collapsed, said a report to the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva—not today, but a year ago, and nothing has changed since, nor does it look likely to change.

Power is now entirely in military hands, corruption is mounting on an unheard-of scale, and the government is so lawless it has long ago stopped paying any attention to court orders. The UN report said that at the time about 70,000 people were detained in Nigeria and many had gone 12 years without trial—if they had survived the brutality, torture, and primitive conditions.

Since taking over, Abubakar has given Nigerians only a grim five-minute television address, offering little hope that they might see an end to the 15 years of military misrule that has brought the country to its knees.

It is true he promised to implement the long-promised transition to civilian rule. But it is equally true that Nigerians and the rest of the world consider this Abacha creation to be a sham and a mirage, along the lines of Laurent Kabila

replacing Mobutu Sese Seso in Zaire with a taciturn regime equally as bad. At the time of his death, Abacha was the sole candidate in a presidential election scheduled for August 1.

The human rights situation remains unchanged—Abubakar neither freed any dissidents as a goodwill gesture, nor did he even mention the issue in his short speech. His invitation, bereft of guarantees, to exiles like Soyinka to return home sounded like an invitation to go directly to jail without passing "Go" on the road to democracy. Already apathetic and apolitical Nigerians for the moment are losing themselves in some mass hysteria over their World Cup soccer team. But the hangover is likely to be heavy when the party ends and the majority of ordinary citizens turn back to the impoverished lives their government has given them.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan has offered to help Abubakar return Nigeria to civilian rule and urged him to "proceed with a peaceful and democratic transition to civilian rule."

If the crushing of Friday's peaceful protest against military rule is any indication, Annan's words have fallen on deaf ears and an uncomprehending brain. As far as a world swamped with problems is concerned, continuing ineffectual sanctions and criticism seem to be the only tools available to press for change in Nigeria. The fate of the country is in the hands of Nigerians themselves, and that may be the most depressing thought of all.

## Powerless in Kosovo

Kosovo has been predicted as a coming major crisis for two years. World governments and organizations have the experience of Bosnia behind them, and everything knows the character of Slobodan Milosevic. Yet, still, the unfolding war over the future of the Yugoslav province is generating nothing but international dithering, while the unfazed Serbs continue their devastation and murder.

Leading the ditherers is Sandy Berger, the US national security adviser, who said military intervention "is not on the table." He was followed by flustered officials explaining what Berger "really meant to say" was that he was referring only to the short term, and not to the situation if sanctions fail to halt the Serb onslaught (as they undoubtedly will fail).

Sanctions already are a joke—they have been imposed, lifted, and reimposed and scarcely anyone can tell the difference between an off, certainly not the Serb regime they are supposed to hurt. Montenegro, which is federated with Serbia, has been exempted from the latest sanctions, ensuring a well-constructed loophole for supplies. Serbian assets in the US have been frozen—as if the Serbs never heard of money laundering. US investment has been banned—as if American businessmen are lining up to throw their money into Milosevic's lap. Meanwhile, Kosovo's defenseless villages continue to have their own sanctions imposed, in the shape of the far more effective tanks and artillery of the

Serbs. US and European officials seem surprised that Russia has taken such a hostile attitude to proposed NATO air exercises in the region. It has been obvious there never was any chance of getting Russia on board any plan for intervention in Kosovo, which Moscow sees, correctly under international law, as an internal matter. After all, the Serbs are only doing in Kosovo exactly what Russia did in Chechnya—"rooting out separatist terrorists." For Russians to give any ground on this matter would be to invite unwanted intervention the next time they want to crush a separatist province.

But then, it is just as difficult these days to convince the US Congress to put military personnel in harm's way for something as remote and unappealing as an ethnic domestic war between Serbs and Moslems. Congress will not fall for another "one-year" commitment of troops on the Kosovo border, as it did for the transparent one-year commitment to Bosnia, which seemingly has turned into a forever intervention.

Bosnia and Rwanda crippled the United Nations, just as Somalia and Bosnia have crippled first the United States and now NATO. If any more simmering ethnic tensions and border disputes burst into flames, it is a sobering thought that the great powers and great organizations of the world simply may be powerless to do anything or help anyone any more.



## Netanyahu: Go to...

DAVID WEINBERG

It has taken Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu two years to achieve a modicum of legitimacy. Now it's time he shook-up the game a bit with bold policy initiatives. Mr. Prime Minister, I think you ought to head out on the road, and go to Kochav Yair and quickly settle terms for a national unity government with Ehud Barak.

You've reached the point where diplomatic progress is impossible with the current coalition. Join forces to establish a true majority consensus for final-status talks. Barak is the last of the Labor security hawks and will support most of the demands you make of the Palestinians in this regard. Look at what he said regarding Beit El and Ofra several weeks ago.

The fact is that you and Barak both are under attack from the extreme right and left wings of your respective political coalitions, and thus are too weak, independently, to make the historic decisions necessary.

You were made for each other. Go to Washington and rehabilitate our alarmingly bruised ties with the most important government on earth. Rebuild our partnership with Clinton and Gore on Mideast diplomacy, because this alliance is Israel's most consequential strategic asset. Specifically, negotiate an advance understanding with Washington on the outlines of a final-status settlement. You must act to change the current situation, whereby Arafat is better coordinated with Clinton than we are, and Hillary (read Bill) already is hinting at US-Palestine agreements to our detriment. Make Clinton "our" partner in this process, once again. Newt Gingrich isn't going to save us.

Go to Psagot and have it out with the settlement leadership. Explain to the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza that, in the post-Oslo reality, everybody is modifying

Jewish towns in Judea and Samaria, or for the return of refugees to our heartland.

Concurrently, restart direct negotiations with the Palestinian Authority, in an attempt to rehumanize the process. After all, direct talks were always our key demand. Work it out with Washington in advance so that Arafat won't have immediate recourse to Uncle Sam at the first snag. Dennis Ross will be thrilled.

Go to Heichal Shlomo and tell the Chief Rabbinate to take yes for an answer. The best deal possible from their point of view is on the table—recognition of Orthodox conversion as the absolute standard in Israel, through the Neuman proposals—and they should grab it. There's no need to compromise halachic standards, just to have a little vision. If they keep looking over their right shoulders, they'll lose the masses and whatever legal control they still maintain over marriage and divorce in this country.

Go to Bnei Brak and lay down the law before the haredi leadership. Caution them against pushing the conversion bill and counsel them to come up with their own solutions for haredi army or national service. Offer them a partnership in weaving haredi society off the dole, and in easing into the modern economy, without coercion and with sensitivity.

Tell them to act courageously now, before the ascending animosity towards haredim leads to confrontational, unfriendly legislation that only further will bury the haredi world in isolationism and poverty.

In short, Mr. Prime Minister, get off the current merry-go-round. Move beyond the current stalemate government and seek the middle ground. Build coalitions and partnerships that provide you strength. Use the renewed mandate to speak frankly, and boldly advance us towards peace and security.

ALAN DERSHOWITZ

a wide-ranging deposition about his sex life. During the course of that deposition, he denied having sexual relations with Monica Lewinsky. Sexual relations were defined to include oral sex. There is no conceivable way that Robert

## Fighting the Paula Jones case was the US president's most disastrous decision so far

Bennett, the president's lawyer in the Jones case, could have known whether the president had or had not engaged in such relations. Yet, he permitted the president to swear that he did not, even after it should have become clear that Jones's lawyers had evidence to the contrary.

It is this deposition, and alleged steps that may or may not have been taken to obstruct justice in the Jones case, which now drives Kenneth Starr's investigation. All of this could have been avoided had the president asserted his legal right to default the case. Yes, default! Lose the civil case, with its negative political consequences, in order to prevent a criminal investigation with far greater legal consequences.

The lesson the White House has learned since the Paula Jones fiasco is that the president has little to fear politically. He can survive the political slings and arrows and emerge stronger for them. He has little to fear from the media, the electorate or even from Congress. What he does have to fear is Kenneth Starr's investigation and the legal consequences that may result from it. The president's major fear is that he himself could be indicted. There is no way of

predicting how the Supreme Court would come down on whether a sitting president can be indicted for alleged crimes committed while in office.

Another fear is that Monica Lewinsky could be indicted and the president called as an eye witness. Clinton might have to invoke his privilege against self-incrimination. There will be those who argue that a president should never invoke a privilege against self-incrimination, lest it be deemed an implicit admission of guilt. But when a president is being treated like a potential criminal by an independent prosecutor, he is entitled to invoke the rights that our Constitution grants people in that situation. Moreover, there are circumstances in which an innocent person can and should invoke his privilege against self-incrimination. These include the situation in which an overzealous prosecutor gets a witness to change her story so as to give false testimony which contradicts the true testimony of the target.

These rights should not be invoked frivolously, when there is no conceivable possibility of success. But the rights at issue here are important rights and their invocation in the context of this case raises close questions. For example, the application of the lawyer-client privilege to dead clients or to government employees and government lawyers raises difficult and important issues. No lawyer should be embarrassed to raise these issues, even if he loses in the end.

The US Constitution bestows inalienable rights upon every citizen who is the possible target of a criminal prosecution. Just as the president is not above the law, neither is he below the law. He is entitled to invoke every right which serves his legal interests. He should do so without fear of the political consequences.

(United Feature Syndicate, Inc.)

## 'Bukra' VS. 'mañana'

DANIEL BLOCH

A linguistic expert was once asked to define the differences between the Arabic term *bukra* and the Spanish *mañana*. His answer was that both mean really the same, but *bukra* has a slightly higher sense of urgency. That explains why the best political commentator of the past week, former chief rabbi Avraham Shapira, urged his followers in the National Religious Party not to oppose vehemently Netanyahu's policies, because he is only manipulating the "bukra strategy." It seems also that Rabbi Shapira believes that the prime minister is really closer to *mañana*. Bibi wants everybody to believe that he acts with a sense of urgency, but in fact he is in no hurry at all. He prefers the status quo, but acts as Louis Carroll instructed us in *Alice in Wonderland*: "You have to run all the time in order to stay in the same place."

Everybody close enough to the negotiations on the second phase of the redeployment knows that all the issues still under discussion could be resolved in 48 hours, if only Netanyahu were ready to sign the agreement. The main causes for delay are now less connected with the Palestinians and much more with the internal political problems of his coalition. Netanyahu has to jump into the muddy boiling water of Israeli politics and try to swim with a carp that pretends to be a shark. The extreme wing of his coalition all want to eat him alive, but if he only dares and takes the leap, he will get to his destination, and they will be processed through the political fish grinder.

There is a firm majority in the Knesset for the withdrawals needed in order to further implement the Oslo accords. There is a strong majority for that in Israeli public opinion, even if you just

## The government must understand that tomorrow is already here

count the Jewish vote. The Labor Party and the Left cannot vote against any further withdrawals in the West Bank and will not bring down the government that wants to carry them out. Even most of the ultra-nationalistic Right, that will vote against the redeployment plan, will not dare bring down Netanyahu's government because an alternative, whether it is Barak, Milo etc., is worse to them than the current one. Only a day-dreaming right wing extremist believes that new elections will result in a stronger hard-line government.

Netanyahu holds all the best cards in his hands. Due to the system of direct elections there is almost no chance of bringing down his government, as most politicians are afraid to call for new elections. He can master a majority in the Knesset for delaying tactics or for a withdrawal plan. He can threaten his right-wing partners with the idea of a national unity government, or he can call for early elections.

He can even play with the idea of a referendum, which can be a very far-fetched possibility. First, because there is no doubt that the result will be favorable to the continuation of the peace process. Secondly, the process of enacting legislation and organizing the referendum itself will probably bring us to May '99 and the deadline for achieving the permanent settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Today the moderate forces in the government cannot allow the use of further delaying tactics. Mordechai, Kahalani, and Sharansky have the task of pressing for a quick agreement—or else bring down the government, if they stand by their principles. The Labor Party has to state clearly its support for such an agreement and call a moratorium on all their pathetic and useless no-confidence motions in the Knesset. If there is no agreement before the summer recess of the Knesset, then the opposition must bring a no-confidence motion and test the sincerity of all those in the coalition who promise to quit their jobs if an agreement would not be signed shortly.

Then, facing the diplomatic, political, and economic consequences and a probable rise in violence, Netanyahu will have no one to blame but himself. Perhaps then he will understand that *bukra* and *mañana* do not mean waiting for an indefinite tomorrow—for it is already here today.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### PROUD TO BE AN ARAB

Sir—I have never written to any publication before, but I have been a dedicated reader of yours for many years. I'm a 19-year-old Arab who used to try to avoid politics in any way possible, for I was raised to appreciate what I have and where I live. However, now that I'm a grown person I do have my political opinions and would like to express them; after all I am living in a democratic state (even though Arabs are not "born" with equal rights, unlike Jews, we are "rewarded" with them or they are

"given" to us, and we have to appreciate that, as if we are afraid they're going to be taken from us.) However, my reason for writing this piece is to address it to all those racist, death-to-Arabs-screaming Jews.

Personally, their screams only make me feel stronger and prouder to be an Arab in Israel because I realized racism is not an act of "hated" or "anger," it's just an act of fear from being dominated by a minority. I will not be fooled by their pathetic attempts to make me

feel guilty for crimes that I have not committed or have nothing to do with, for I have never been more proud to be an Arab and to listen to helpless and pitiful cries like, "Death to Arabs." Those do not insult me, but only make me stronger because I know that they are only cries of fear as it kills them to see us Arabs living with a clear conscience and no regrets.

GEORGE BANNA

Nazareth.

### GOOD SERVICE

Sir—With all the stories of dishonesty and chiseling among our merchants and servicemen, I feel I must recount the following recent story of almost unheard of uprightness and integrity in service work.

I was holding the remote control of my TV and then it fell to the floor and split up to its 30 or 40 constituent parts. I was about to

throw the mess into the trash can, but I then collected up all the tiny pieces and took them to the electronic shop in central Tel Aviv where I had bought it. I thought the man would laugh at me, throw it away and sell me a new remote control for NIS 170.

Instead, he said: "This is ours, isn't it? OK, come back in half an hour. I think I can fix it."

I came back in half an hour, and there it was, as good as new. How much did he charge me for the repair work? Nothing! I paid only NIS 20 for four new batteries.

Mashiach's *zeitun*, my mother would say on such occasions.

GEORGE STROOK

Tel Aviv.

## FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On June 14, 1933, The Palestine Post reported that Chaim Arlosoroff, a member of the Jewish Agency's Executive, presented a four-year plan for helping German Jewry. Serious Nazi attacks on Jews continued in Vienna and other Austrian cities.

50 years ago: On June 14,

1948, The Palestine Post reported that a second supply road to Jerusalem had been built and opened under the cover of raging battles for the Latrun fortress. Israel had announced the death of Colonel Mickey Markus, supreme commander of operations on the Jerusalem front. A large convoy carrying food and

other supplies arrived in Jerusalem. 25 years ago: On June 14, 1973, The Jerusalem Post reported that Hebrew University professors staged a hunger-strike in support of persecuted Soviet Jewish scientists.

Alexander Ziehl





Adolph von Menzel: 'Auf der Fahrt durch schone Natur,' oils, 1892 (£450,000-£600,000 at Christie's London)

## Unique Judaica at Shane sale

### AT THE AUCTIONS

A UNIQUE late 17th-century Hebrew manuscript of liturgical poems and prayers for a marriage, known as the Harrison Miscellany, will be offered at Christie's East in New York on June 24. The highlight of a sale of Judaica from the Asher Lewis Shane Collection, the volume manuscript is written according to the rite of the Corfu community and contains 60 full-page biblical illustrations, mostly derived from Italian High Renaissance biblical images. It also includes unpublished liturgical poems, several by the rabbi and physician Eliezer de Mordechai, and a famous *Shema Yisrael* (1644-48), of the Jewish Historical Society of England. Highlights of more than 20 Esther Scrolls in his collection are two 17th-century Dutch scrolls illustrated in brown ink (each \$150,000-\$200,000). Three other 17th-century Dutch Esther Scrolls with borders engraved by Shalom Italia (1619-55) each have estimates of \$40,000-\$60,000. A Hebrew commentary from Italy by Moses ben Joshua of Narbonne has an estimate of \$15,000-\$20,000. A silver travelling Torah scroll that once belonged to Sir Moses Montefiore, written on parchment and mounted on silver rollers with an embroidered fabric mantle and a gilt-stamped leather case which fits in turn into a tin trunk, is a curiosity that may exceed its estimate of \$20,000-\$30,000. Another English lot consists of a pair of rare English parcel-gilt Torah finials from 1811, made by Peter and William Bateman (\$25,000-\$35,000). The Shane sale also comprises some 40 *kabbot* (marriage contracts) from England, Italy, Gibraltar, North Africa and India, notably a London contract from 1724 witnessed by Rabbi David Nieto and Moses Lopez Pereira (\$3,000-\$4,000). A 12-volume Amsterdam first edition, 1644-48, of the Babylonian Talmud (\$5,000-\$7,000) heads a section of over 300 Hebrew imprints from all over Europe, the Ottoman Empire, India and the US. One of the highlights is the Great Rabbinic Bible with the Massora edited by Jacob ben Chayim and published in four folio volumes by Daniel Bomberg, Venice, 1524-5 (\$6,000-\$8,000). The myriad of volumes of Anglo-Judaic documents that form the core of the Shane collection illustrate the earliest accounts of Jewish life in Britain and are primary historical sources (each \$700-\$2,000). Among the ceramics on offer are two rare pairs of Jewish peddlers - a man selling bottles and a woman selling trinkets (\$3,000-\$7,000 a pair); and a large cup and a mug, both Staffordshire pearl ware and both illustrating Lord George

Gordon's conversion to Judaism in 1787 (\$1,000-\$1,500). Catalogs can be obtained by calling 1-800-395-6300 or 1-718-784-1480. Christie's can also be found in the Internet at [www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com)

MAJOR IMPRESSIONIST oils and drawings are offered at Christie's London on June 24, notably works by Monet, Pissarro, Signac, Boudin, Corot, Degas, Renoir and Adolph von Menzel. The latter's satirical oil from 1892 of German nature lovers admiring the landscape through binoculars from a train looks like early Norman Rockwell, and would not have been out of place in *The Saturday Evening Post* (£450,000-£600,000). One of the major oils is Claude Monet's serene riverside landscape in deep perspective, 'La Promenade d'Argenteuil,' with an estimate of £3m-£3.5m. A typically Victorian picture is a skilled and virtually unknown oil by Lord Leighton which was exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1883; *Kittens* depicts a young girl with her pet, her head framed by a gold panel, almost like an icon. It has a hefty estimate, £700,000-£1m, but may go even higher. Also notable is a charming fashion pastel portrait of the Vicomtesse de Montmor and made on canvas by James-Jacques Tissot in 1889 (£100,000-£150,000). Part Two of this sale contains many lovely drawings, including some erotic wash drawings by Rodin, ranging from £9,000 to £20,000.



Page from the Harrison Miscellany, Italian, 17th century, depicting the building of the Tower of Babel (\$300,000-\$500,000 at Christie's New York, June 24)



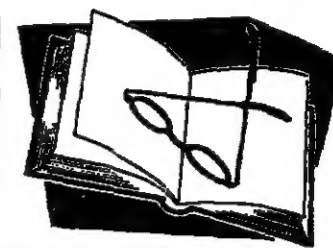
Frederic Lord Leighton: 'Kittens,' oils (£700,000-£1m. at Christie's London)



Author Robert Cormier's stories of youth show the black side of growing up and tend not to end on a high note. (Gary Friedman/Los Angeles Times)

## Truth for youth

### Book Review



By Lynn Smith

In the fictional world of author Robert Cormier, there are no positive role models. No friendly adults willing to lend a helping hand to teenagers. No happy endings. This is a good thing, the author for young adults insists, because it's real - and kids know it. "I get an awful lot of mail from my readers, and I get phone calls," said Cormier, 73, whose 17th novel, *Heroes* (Delacorte Press), is due in August. "The kids say, 'You tell it like it is.' Over the past two decades, Cormier has produced stories about children on the cusp of maturity who fight lonely battles against big, heartless institutions and lose. His groundbreaking 1974 novel, *The Chocolate War* (Pantheon), shocked and angered some adults because its school-boy protagonist ultimately gave up after challenging not only his bully classmates, but also the corrupt priest who ran the private school. The book was nearly banned in some communities and still appears on People for the American Way's list of censorship targets around the country, but it opened the door for a new field of authors now busily plumbing the bleakness of teenagers' lives. The five finalists for last year's National Book Awards for young people all featured stories about dysfunctional families: a 13-year-old girl describing the murder of her lover, who was her mother's employer; a girl who suffers a mental breakdown after realizing her father is a fraud; a boy dealing with an abusive father he adores; an interracial friendship between two girls with unsupportive families; and a baby raised by animals who do a better job than the parents. British writer Melvin Burgess won his country's Carnegie medal for his novel *Smack* (Henry Holt & Co., 1998), about two teenagers' addiction to heroin. Pursuing themes of evil and violence, Cormier also has written about a young boy imprisoned and driven mad by government agents who killed his whistle-blowing parents; an 18-year-old serial killer and his adoring girlfriend; and, most recently, a disfigured young war hero determined to kill the charismatic youth leader who raped his girlfriend. Although Cormier's books have won many awards and are taught in some schools, some parents, and even members of the literary community complain that such dark themes in children's literature are inappropriate because they shatter innocence, lack hope and promote nihilism. "Everyone wants to protect children; we just disagree on the means," said University of California, Los Angeles library and information science associate professor Virginia Walter, who has just published her own dark novel for young adults, *Making Up Megaboy*, which is about a middle-class 13-year-old who shoots a liquor store owner. "People in our field think we give them some facts, some values and good questions, and that gives them armor for dealing with the dangers of their times. 'If there's no hope,' she said, 'at least there's no false hope, which is worse.' Cormier defended grim topics for young readers because they

reflect the lack of control and respect experienced by most teenagers throughout history. "Being a teenager or adolescent is really a devastating time of life, and I think a lot of people don't realize it because it's transient," he said. "We tell young people, 'Things will get better.' But it's obvious to almost every teenager that that can't always be true. "Kids see their father come home from work saying, 'Some rat at work got the promotion I should have had.' They see their mother frustrated. They see that life isn't filled with happy things," Cormier said. "When you're giving them books with happy role models, you're telling them lies." Slight and snowy-haired, Cormier speaks with a twinge of Kennedy twang, signs of his New England heritage. A former newspaper reporter and columnist for 30 years, he writes daily at his home in Leominster, Mass., where he was born and raised. He and his wife, Connie, have four adult children who live nearby and visit often.

It was only six years ago, after his mother died, that Cormier began to explore where all the darkness in his work came from. Born into a large and loving family with eight children, he was a sensitive child haunted by early observations of death - first his brother who died of pneumonia at age three, then a cousin who also died young and was afraid of being buried alive, and then a friend who died in a fall from a cliff. In an interview, Cormier said he never set out to write unhappy books. Rather, he chooses stories - taken from his own life or the news - that affect him emotionally.

"I follow the inevitability of events," he said. "The topics that attract me are the ones I'm emotionally upset about, so to begin with, the plot isn't a happy one. It's hard to force a happy ending on it." He said seven major publishers turned down *The Chocolate War* because he refused to make the ending more positive. Michael Carr, president of the Young Adult Library Services Association, said Cormier's unhappy endings were 20 years ahead of their time. Many writers now believe that traditional literature sometimes does a disservice to young readers by holding out a skewed vision of a happy world awaiting them. He said that as a result of his own childhood reading, he grew up with the mistaken ideas that hard work would guarantee success, that there would always be someone out there to love him and make him happy. While there is a place in literature for happy escapes from reality, Carr said, "if literature is going to have the capacity to change lives, it has to recognize the reality of kids' lives today. Also, it's not only for the kids whose lives are at risk, but it is for the privileged kids who are going to be the leaders of tomorrow. They need to read about the lives of these kids so they will develop empathy and compassion." In a world dominated by TV and movies, literature for young adults is experiencing a renaissance, Carr said. Cormier said that as society's institutions become increasingly large and impersonal, he holds little hope that children will be better served by them. He is heartened, however, by the teachers he often sees who ask him to sign books that they have bought students with their own money. Despite his downbeat endings, "I have to be an optimist in the first place to sit down and write a book and expect people to pay money for it," he said. "How could a pessimist do that?" (Los Angeles Times)

## Are you sure you're eating organic?

### Earthly Concerns



By D'vora Ben Shaul

A word can mean anything you say it means," said Alice in Wonderland, adding that sometimes you "have to pay it over time." If this is the case, the US government's proposed definition of "organic," as applied to agricultural products, is going to be due for a walloping overtime payment. If there is any resemblance between the new definition and what today's American consumer considers to be organically grown fruit, vegetables, meat or dairy products, the resemblance is so small that it's unlikely anyone will ever succeed in discovering it. For while to most of us, for several decades, "organic" has meant food grown without pesticides, chemical fertilizers, antibiotics or hormone additives, the new definition has, as one organic farmer put it, "loopholes big enough to drive a 10-ton fertilizer truck through." Permitted are the use of sewage sludge fertilizers, some synthetic pesticides, some bio-engineered toxins and hormones, and feed-lot meat production, with the use of antibiotics and some hormones; also food irradiation. In short, by avoiding certain pesticides and chemicals almost any farmer will be able to have his or her produce classified as organic.



The label may read 'organic,' but the definition of that term is becoming increasingly vague.

It is true that most organic farmers and a large percentage of their customers have long felt that the American government should define "organic" and require certain conditions for food to be allowed to carry the organic label. But no one dreamed that the need for legislation would spawn such a wide-ranging definition. Since, until now, the integrity of any organic product purchased has been largely a matter of trust between organic farmers and their customers, both feel betrayed by this new definition. For the farmers - like those represented by the US Organic Farmers Marketing Association, who are pioneers in the field, often at great personal sacrifice - this governmental move threatens the very structure of their activities. Now there will be no way to differentiate between conventional organic food and food falling under the new definition. For those Americans who prefer to buy organic products the situation is even more threatening, since customers will no longer know what pesticides, chemicals,

hormones or antibiotics have been incorporated into the products they're buying. As one consumer put it, "We haven't always been sure, but if we knew the seller or farmer, we had some idea. Now there will be no guarantees at all."

IN ISRAEL there is no regulation whatsoever as to what may or may not be labeled organic, nor is there absolute consensus between farmers as to exactly what constitutes an organic product. However, organic fruit and veg-

etable growers do, by and large, refrain from pesticide and chemical fertilizer usage; and while there is no local production of organic meats to speak of, producers of organic eggs try to avoid the use of fish-meal, which is usually highly contaminated, preferring to raise egg-producing chickens on organically grown grain whenever they can. The same is true of organic dairy products. (You can get more information from the US Organic Farmers Marketing Association on <http://web.iquest.net/ofma>)



# German-Israeli scientists' ties – a model for peace

By JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

The initially painful but increasingly fruitful scientific contacts between Germany and Israel during the past 40 years have had an ironic mutual benefit: Initial ties with Israel decisively helped to legitimize Germany in the post-Nazi era and reintegrate its scientists into the international scientific community. Today, Germany serves as an important bridge to Israel's inclusion in European Union projects of scientific cooperation.

Germany currently could arguably be described as "Israel's best friend after the US" – especially in financing joint research and promoting scientific exchanges. Four decades of scientific links between the two countries – which began even before diplomatic relations were established in 1959 – were celebrated here recently with a number of events.

Over 170 German scientists and researchers took part in the 10th anniversary celebrations of the German-Israeli Foundation for Scientific Research and Development (known as GIF). Established by the science ministries of the two countries, GIF has supported an impressive 570 joint projects in a broad range of scientific areas and awarded grants totaling DM 170 million, according to its director, Dr. Arnon Barak.

GIF complements the work of the Minerva Foundation, founded 40 years ago with the approval of then prime ministers David Ben-Gurion and chancellor Konrad Adenauer, which has promoted cooperation agreements and exchanges of scientists, and allocated DM 380 million to research here.

One of the most prominent German visitors during the recent anniversary events was Prof. Hubert Markl, president of the Max-Planck-Gesellschaft (Max

Planck Society for the Advancement of Science) – one of the largest networks of research institutes in Europe. It has 11,000 employees (including 2,700 staff scientists) working in 80 institutes throughout Germany. The MPS is a powerhouse for basic research, and nearly 60 Israelis are currently there as guest scientists out of the total of nearly 2,500.

In the second half of the 19th century, German Jews – many of them from assimilated families – found excellent professional opportunities in the independent professions, trade and the sciences, as they were still mostly barred from higher positions in the government, civil service and military. Although one percent of the German Empire's population, they constituted eight percent of university students at the beginning of this century.

Abba Eban, former foreign minister and president of the Weizmann Institute, noted that "faith and sentiment still exist in the Hebrew tradition. Passion without rationality is hysteria, while rationality remains sterile without passion." This distinct combination among German Jews led to their great success in the Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gesellschaft – the Max Planck Society's forerunner that was founded in 1911. Three of the first five chief scientists of the society were Jewish, and leading Jewish luminaries included Fritz Haber, Max Born, Otto Meyerhof, Max Bergmann and Carl Neuberg.

Max Planck appointed Albert Einstein as director of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute of Physics in 1914. When Hitler seized power in 1933, many of the Jewish, and some non-Jewish, scientists were forced to leave Germany – among them 25 people who either had already won a Nobel Prize or who were to receive it later for their work. Facing the results of the Nuremberg Laws, Max Planck appealed to Hitler to intervene on behalf of Jewish scientists, but he was unsuccessful. Unlike the

many assimilated Jews, Einstein recognized the dangers of anti-Semitism and supported Chaim Weizmann in his Zionist efforts to create a Jewish homeland in Palestine. He, of course, emigrated to the US and worked, until his death, at Princeton.

After the Holocaust, scientific relations between the two countries were launched during discussions held in 1958 between Max Planck Society professors and representatives of the Weizmann Institute. The Minerva Foundation was established as the German research organization's independent subsidiary to support projects at the Rehovot institute. Since then, this cooperation and support – in the form of fellowships, centers, chairs and symposia – has expanded to other Israeli universities as well.

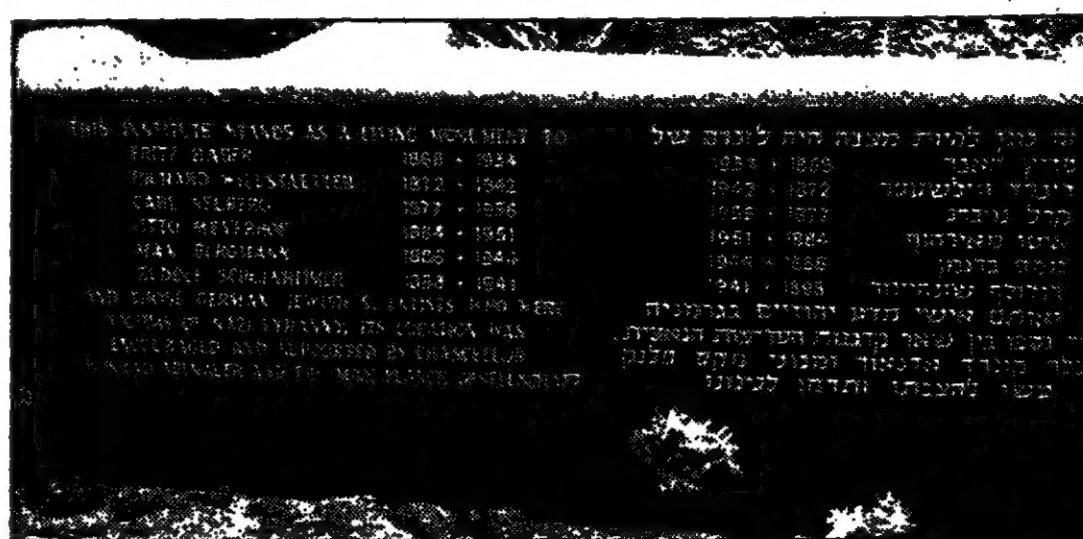
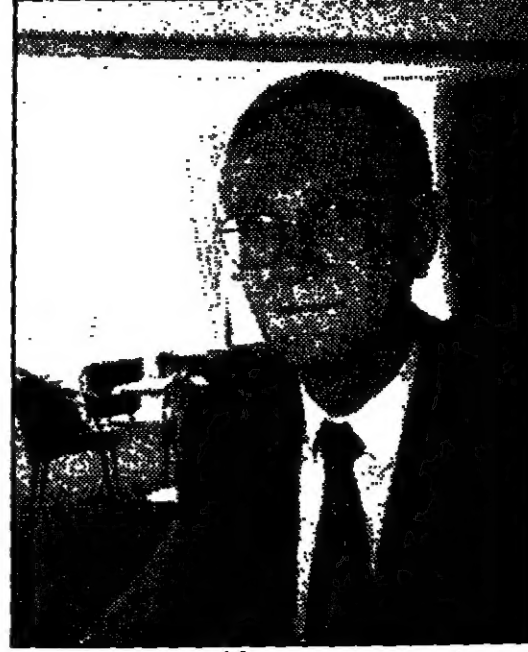
Two years ago, Markl – an outstanding animal biologist – was elected to a six-year-term as president by the society's senate. "My predecessor, Hans Zacher, was a scholar of law," he recalled in an interview with *The Jerusalem Post*. As a young researcher in the late Fifties and early Sixties, Markl worked with Karl von Frisch and Martin Lindauer at the University of Munich. Von Frisch had discovered one of the most important findings in the research of animal behavior – that bees can communicate among themselves, especially providing information about food sources, using symbolic "language." This is based on a dance of semi-circles or figure eights that symbolize the direction and distance of food. Markl later expanded his interests to investigate communication between fish and insects and later between parents and offspring in mice and other small mammals.

Today, he is constantly busy, like a conductor orchestrating the DM 1.9 billion annual budget, keeping the institutes working in harmony, closing down those whose work can be continued in universities and opening new ones.

When Communist East



Nobel prize-winning physicist Max Planck (left); Hubert Markl, outstanding animal biologist.



The Weizmann Institute's memorial honoring German Jewish scientists.

Germany fell, the Max Planck Society had to take over research institutes in the eastern lands and open up new ones: 20 of Max Planck's 80 institutes are now in

the east. Markl bemoans the fact that only four directors are women, but notes that women scientists are rapidly taking up important research positions.

Most of the institute's budget, he said, comes from the federal and state governments, but an increasing amount derives from industry, which promotes the establishment

of start-up companies. "These days, the border between basic research and applied sciences has lost importance. When a scientist discovers something that can benefit patients, they demand to be treated, or they will lose trust. Basic research belongs to everyone, but once you get into applied research, one has to worry about patents and production. We feel that industry should pay for this because it profits from this work."

Although many excellent researchers are being tempted away from basic research and into industry, there are still many top staffers who remain until pension age, plus numerous young people who are hired with limited contracts.

"The pay scale in Germany is high, but not as generous as in the US, Scandinavia and Switzerland. You won't get rich as a scientist, but you will enjoy the freedom to do what you like to do, make discoveries and educate young people," Markl added.

The MPS president, who first visited Israel in the Seventies, said he has great admiration for the country and its scientists. "You find the same ideas and questions everywhere. Science is very globalized. You can set up a lab anywhere," he says, but thinks Israeli researchers, because of their surroundings and experiences, may be more likely to take risks and are more open-minded than their European counterparts.

"As German-Israeli scientific relations have been a model on the long road to peace in the Middle East, German scientists [are] helping today to launch initial cooperation between Israeli and Palestinian scientists. We have set up spheres for Israel-Palestinian cooperation, but it's only limited in scope so far," he says.

Markl concludes that "for all the sense of normality that characterizes the collaboration between Israeli and German scientists, an awareness of the special quality of these relations should be kept alive for generations to come."

## New technology helps Sherlock at the scene of the crime

By DAWN WHITE

TV detectives make it seem so easy to collect evidence at the scene of a crime and bring the criminal to justice. But in real life, the task is much more complex. Each day, law enforcement officials are faced with the daunting task of investigating complex crime scenes without compromising evidence. Investigators know the slightest error could jeopardize a conviction, setting a criminal free.

Now, researchers at the US Department of Energy's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory are teaming up with Mnemonic Systems Inc. (at [www.mnemonic.com](http://www.mnemonic.com)) of Washington, DC on an interactive system that will enable law enforcement personnel to quickly capture, store and relay vast amounts of information at crime scenes and other field scenarios.

Called Team Leader, the system will bring the latest in geographical information systems together with global positioning, multimedia computing and communication technologies in a small unit that can be worn by the user.

"The range of tools and online capability of Team Leader reduces the number of people needed initially to assess and prepare a scene for processing, therefore reducing the risk of inadvertent contamination from fingerprints, footprints, hair or fiber," said Dan Irwin, project manager at Pacific Northwest.

Team Leader, scheduled to be completed by the end of 1998, is designed to be a rugged, weather-proof vest unit that incorporates an IBM-compatible personal computer. The unit will be field tested by police departments in Baltimore, Miami and Los Angeles and eventually renamed and commercialized by MSI.

Team Leader integrates sophisticated software with a number of data collection tools, including a digital video and still camera, voice recorder, barcode scanner and specialized sensors. The system can capture and use satellite images, terrain features, architectural draw-



A new, speedy interactive system – designed as a rugged, weatherproof vest unit – will let law enforcement personnel capture, store and relay vast amounts of information at the scene of a crime like this.

ings, site plans and a host of other information vital to a thorough investigation.

Team Leader also serves as a portable library, with access to volumes of stored or online information, such as maps, facility floor plans, databases, reports, forms, investigation protocols and scientific, technical and legal reference material.

Information gathered at scenes can be disseminated instantly via fax, e-mail or wireless LAN (local area network) lines to a base station. For complex crime scenes, up to eight Team Leader systems can exchange information and communications simultaneously.

Due to the modular design, each unit can be configured with different tools depending on need.

Team Leader supports both voice and video conferencing and also

can be used to access off-site computers, printers and fax machines.

"If Team Leader were deployed at a murder site, for example, investigators could use the unit to track their routes and create a detailed 'map' of the scene," said Irwin. "Upon discovery of the murder weapon, investigators could link the evidence to its geographical position with laser measurements and positional data, capture still and video images, and record detailed audio and text notes. The digitized evidence would be transferred immediately to an evidence custodian and could be recalled months or years later during trial through its assigned barcode."

Team Leader originally was developed by Pacific Northwest and the Remote Sensing Laboratory in Las Vegas, through federal funding in support of treaty inspections

and other arms control and verification activities.

Pacific Northwest and MSI, with guidance from the National Forensic Science Training Center, will customize the unit for a range of law enforcement and forensic applications, such as search and rescue, natural disasters, hazardous material incidents, fires and clandestine drug operations.

"We plan to work closely with the FBI and others to help establish the standards and criteria by which digital evidence is accepted into our criminal justice system," said Irwin. "Also, we'll team up with the law enforcement and forensic communities to establish and equip Team Leader with specific directions or protocols for processing crime scenes – protocols that may set an industry standard."

(EurekAlert News Service)

## Live Wire lights things up



By Judy Siegel-Itzkovich

Live Wire, a new type of illumination developed in Jerusalem – using ultra thin, flexible ribbons that light up when connected to a battery or other power source – is proving a hit among filmmakers, as well as safety, marine, traffic and retail display use.

The extremely flexible illumination, invented at the Jerusalem College of Technology (JCT), has been utilized in movies such as *Batman and Robin*, *Con Air* and the new *Lost in Space*.

The US department stores Bloomingdale's and Fortunoff's use Live Wire extensively in displays, and Washington's prestigious Smithsonian Institute is applying it in its latest *Star Wars* exhibit.

Live Wire was recently awarded the coveted Circle of Excellence Award by *Photonics* magazine. The leading magazine covering global developments in the field of optics, lasers, electro-optics and imaging, *Photonics* presents the award annually to companies that have successfully pushed the limits of technology.

Encased in a protective plastic tube, Live Wire is cold to the touch and available in a spectrum of colors; it yields an even output of light and color throughout its length.

The product was invented by two Russian immigrants, Moshe Voskoboinik and Israel Baumberg, who came to Israel in 1992 and were unable to find work in their respective fields. Under the guiding hand of JCT president and co-inventor Prof. Joseph Bodenheimer, the two scientists were brought to the college and given the things they needed to produce the product.

"When I met these two men I sensed that they had something

extraordinary in mind and that, given the right environment, they would be able to bring their ideas to market," Bodenheimer says.

In 1993, JCT received grants from the Absorption and Science Ministries and, using some of its own funds, proceeded to research the Live Wire concept. Today JCT is a major shareholder in Elam Ltd., the company that manufactures the product.

"I am delighted that an idea that began literally in the basement of JCT has achieved such market success. It proves once again just how far new immigrants can go in this country when given the kind of support we offer at JCT," says Bodenheimer.

**TIME MARCHES ON...**

Thanks to the Internet, people will be able to hear the precise time from anywhere in the world. The US Naval Observatory has begun running Master Clock service on the Web using RealAudio. Anytime, on any day, one can listen to the announcer call out the time as the seconds fly by at <http://tycho.usno.navy.mil/what.html>.

Astronomer Richard Schmidt, who developed the site, says it is useful for timing with global positioning satellites, other timing-related businesses, even setting your video cassette recorder. The site uses Universal Time, formerly known as Greenwich Mean Time, so you have to calculate the difference between that and local time, unless you live in the US, where it's calculated automatically. But since there is an inherent four- to 10-second delay in the RealAudio buffer in your computer, you'll have to account it. Schmidt, who says it's accurate enough for home use, says the four-month-old site is averaging about two million hits a month.

**GERMANY PURSUES LAB DIPLOMACY**

Bacteria can be used for peaceful purposes. Biologists at the University of Oldenburg in Germany's Lower Saxony region are taking an active hand in promoting greater cooperation between Israelis and Palestinians. The university announced recently

that it's organizing a three-way project to study the use of bacteria to clean up polluted sea water. Cyanobacteria are capable of breaking up waste, bacteria, contaminants, and some have shown promise, for example, in helping contain oil spills.

A team of German, Israeli and Palestinian biologists will work together under the aegis of the University of Oldenburg to develop a practical system to exploit the cyanobacteria's appetite for pollutants. The results, the participants hope, might be applicable in treating residential and industrial sewage, as well as fertilizer-contaminated agricultural run-off.

**DRAWN TO THE STARS**

Two researchers from the Jordan Valley Regional College will fly to Russia to study solar activity at the National Planetarium there, while two Russian scientists will do research here during the next two years. The exchange project, approved by the Science Ministry, involves the examination of magnetic phenomena developing on stars.

The astronomical facility in Russia has an optic telescope six meters in diameter and a giant radio telescope that are very effective for observation.

**CAD IN DESIGNER CLOTHING**

Technologies such as computer-aided design (CAD), digital cameras and scanners are turning illegal copying of textile designs into an epidemic around the world, according to experts in the UK. Israeli designers should beware.

British researcher Keith Dickson says illegal imitation in his country's textile industry, rare 20 years ago but now rampant, will get much worse as new technologies develop. This has arisen, he says, because designers are simply not sufficiently aware of copyright law and the protection it can offer their business.

"It's a global industry, and infringement is a global problem," he says. "You already see designers going round trade fairs with their digital cameras. Linked to a computer, they can send the design around the world in a matter of minutes."

## Gentle, 'sexy' apes put a kink in the evolution picture

By LAURAN NEERGAARD

ATLANTA – Call them the sexy apes. Or the feminist apes. Or the gentle apes. But for some scientists, they can be downright inconvenient apes – because the little-known bonobo species is hurting old theories that human behavior evolved from warlike, male-dominated chimpanzees.

Bonobos are apparently as closely related to people as chimps are. But the females are clearly in charge: They're peaceful and more intriguing: they have sex all the time – not to procreate, but to

settle conflict or get to know each other – and, unlike other animals, they face-to-face, with some kissing thrown in.

"We may be more bonobo-like than we want to admit," says Frans de Waal, a well-known primatologist at the Yerkes Regional Primate Center, whose new book *Bonobo: The Forgotten Ape* is one of the first major works on the rare species.

Most people have never heard of bonobos, de Waal says. But chimps, and people all evolved from a common ancestor six million years ago. The ques-

tion is what characteristics that ancestor passed on to which species, and why.

Bonobos live in just one remote corner of the world, the deep rain forests of Congo, and scientists didn't begin studying them seriously until the 1970s. Fewer than 100 are in captivity. There's no word yet on how well they survived last year's bloody civil war in Congo, the former Zaire. Japanese experts only recently ventured back into the bush.

Bonobos have smaller heads, slimmer necks and longer legs than chimps, and a more humanlike posture. They're rather stylish, with red lips and distinctive

black hair parted neatly down the middle.

Evolutionists had pictured early humans as decidedly chimplike – a violent, hierarchical society led by powerful, competitive males. But the bonobos throw a serious kink into that theory. "That coherent picture we had of our evolution is crumbling," de Waal said.

First, the bonobos embody "sisterhood." Females are only 85 percent as big as males, yet they band together to take charge.

Females leave their original group when they're grown, migrating into new

bonobo societies where they bond with other females to establish a spot in the hierarchy.

Unlike chimps, female bonobos control choice food; males hang around the periphery until they're offered a bite. A male's rank depends on his mother's social standing.

Chimps often fight viciously, especially with strangers, even taking over territory by killing the adult males. Bonobos rarely fight.

Videos of groups meeting in the wild show them nervous and shrieking, but not physically attacking. Gradually the

females approach each other and initiate cautious sexual contact.

Sex among bonobos is not just male-female – they have same-gender sex, oral sex, masturbation, group sex. Like humans, they have face-to-face intercourse, making scientists wonder if they're more emotionally intimate than other animals. In zoos, the average bonobo initiates sexual contact every 30 minutes. Why?

De Waal says bonobos basically resolve power issues with sex: It eases conflict, signals friendliness and calms stressful situations. (AP)



# Treating foreign workers like people

By JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

When it comes to getting health care, being a legal or an illegal foreign worker doesn't make much difference. "Workers brought here legally have coverage for themselves, but not their families," said Rami Adut, director of Tel Aviv's new clinic for foreign workers opened recently by the voluntary organization Physicians for Human Rights. "But the medical services they get through the private insurance companies contracted by their employers are minimal; they don't cover most tests, chronic diseases or hospitalizations." "As for illegal workers, when they're very sick they go to nearby hospital emergency rooms, or to hospitals in east Jerusalem, which are cheaper. Treatment, required for those who suffered work accidents is covered by the National Insurance Institute (NII), but proving this to the bureaucracy takes a lot of time and effort." "And when a foreign worker needs an operation, his employer is likely to send him home to save the money."

The 60-square-meter clinic, at 27 Rehov Tchernov, near the Central Bus Station in south Tel Aviv, is open three times a week - two evenings for adults, and Friday mornings for infants and children. Aimed at meeting a growing need for medical care among this group, it has the services of up to 30 physicians, some of them specialists, 20 nurses and a few dozen volunteer translators and other helpers. The organization has cared for foreign workers in an informal way during the past few years, but felt the urgent need for a regular clinic. Financial support comes from a number of sources, including the New Israel Fund. Most of the legal workers come from Romania, Thailand and the Philippines, while the illegal workers hail from Africa, South America and a variety of other places. Employers of legal workers are legally bound to provide them - but not their families - with medical services through a health fund or other provider; but this is not always carried out, and there is nothing to force employers of illegal workers to do so. Adut charges that the private health insurance companies "do all they can to avoid paying, as the employer signs the workers up en masse. Legal workers are tested for HIV before they come, but if they contract it here, or if illegal workers come with it or become infected, Adut says they're not entitled to the expensive 'cocktail' of medications that can prolong their lives."

PROF. Eliezer Kaplinsky, the outgoing dean of Tel Aviv University's Sackler School of Medicine and a well-known cardiologist, will run the clinic as an unpaid volunteer. "There's no need to see political leanings every time someone complains about harm to patients' rights," he said. "The activities of Physicians for Human Rights cross all political disagreements and camps. The right to get medical care unites them all." "A pregnant woman needs to get to a hospital whether she is from Tel Aviv, Ramallah or Nigeria, and if she doesn't get care in time and loses the baby, it's a stain on every resident of the country she lives in." Adut noted that international agreements require all children to get basic medical care, even if their parents are illegal workers. "When they reach emergency rooms they are told to pay before treatment if it isn't an emergency; if it's urgent, the staff will take care of the patient and then try to collect - but in many cases the hospitals absorb the loss, putting a further burden on the public health system."



More than 'just creatures with muscle': Foreign workers are toppling into a yawning health care gap - which the voluntary Physicians for Human Rights is doing its best to plug.

Gloria Maza from Chile, speaking for Latino-Americans, said workers "drag along" with their health problems all week, "and on Saturdays we go to hospitals in eastern Jerusalem, where we can get cheaper treatment. Now we won't have to."

The clinic's organizers say they don't intend to be a substitute for the health system, only to push the establishment to take action. Including legal foreign workers in the National Health Insurance Law is the best way to deal with the problem, they said. "Health Minister Yehoshua Matza could decide unilaterally to

include legal foreign workers in the national health insurance system and give them a modified basket of services, freeing them from dependence on the private insurance companies. They could be required to pay health taxes from their wages."

Acting Health Ministry spokesman Yair Amikam said the ministry was "now investigating all legal aspects" of the problem regarding health care for legal foreign workers. "It would cost many millions of shekels. We agree there's a problem," he said, welcoming the Physicians for Human Rights' initiative.

## At 50, Britain's health service is still in crisis

By VICTORIA ENGLISH

LONDON - Britain's National Health Service is no stranger to crisis. With the universal, free health service approaching its 50th anniversary, it is facing a host of problems to the next 50 years. Hospital waiting lists are rising, doctors complain of stress, nursing schools cannot recruit enough qualified applicants and many hospitals and health authorities are in deficit. The Labor Party, which created the service 50 years ago, has decided that the way to put an end to the continuing series of crises is to reform the system one more time. Last December, the government unveiled a 10-year program of reform for the health service that would "distill" most of the Thatcher government's market reforms and, in their place, erect a new "quality agenda."



A tank that has run out of fuel: The NHS will probably get a big government cash gift for its birthday next month - but will the money be enough, and will it be effective?

This is not just a question of freeing up hospital beds, but of recruiting and training more surgeons. Funds are also needed to create new primary care groups and wipe out hospital and health authority deficits, and to cope with one of the biggest cultural changes facing the NHS since its birth half a century ago - the entry of more women doctors into the workforce. Women, who now account for more than 60 percent of all medical school undergraduates, will soon start taking over from men in significant numbers. According to Dr. Janet Wilson of the University of Newcastle, "retaining and promoting women" will be one of the NHS's biggest challenges as it enters the next century. So far, very little has been done

to prepare for the onslaught of female doctors. "We really do have to acknowledge that more than 50 percent of our medical work force in the very near future will be women. This involves the provision of child care and other things," Macara said. Britain is in a better position than most other European countries to bear the cost of major health care reform. This is because it will have a relatively smaller elderly population to care for than many other countries. Statisticians say Britain's relatively high fertility rate will produce a population with a more balanced age profile than elsewhere. By the year 2020, people over the age of 60 are expected to account for a quarter of the British population, compared with more than 29% in Italy and an average of nearly 27% for the European Union as a whole.

Public opinion is broadly supportive of reform. Surveys show that Britons want more and better medical treatment. But they also appear to be more realistic now than in the past about the cost. In a recent poll, 75% of respondents supported the principle of a free health service, but 44% said they would accept fees for certain non-essential services. But should more money be forthcoming, tough decisions will have to be made about how to spend it. "A lot of people in the service, and nurses in particular, have left because of low salaries and overwork," Wilson said.

There's a shortage of more than 8,000 full-time nurses and, for the first time ever, nursing schools had more places than applicants. And last month, the EMA said there were nearly 1,000 vacancies for general practitioners, with thousands of physicians expected to retire in the coming decade. A key factor behind the efficiency gains is that Britain pays its doctors and nurses relatively less than other countries do - but there is growing evidence that young doctors are less willing than their older peers to pay the price for efficiency. "Trainers watch the clock. This would have been unheard of in my day. It wasn't why you were in the NHS," said Wilson. "It's good in some ways, but it's a huge change."

The US, which spends 13.6% of its GDP on health services, was at the top, followed by Canada, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Italy, Belgium and Norway. Israel was followed by Ireland, Spain, Japan, Portugal, the UK, Denmark and Greece. Israel's per capita expenditures on health remained the same in 1997 - an expression of cutbacks by the four public health funds and the abolition of the employers' tax that previously went to help cover health deficits and has been partially replaced by Treasury spending. Expenditure on mental health services had increased by four percent in 1994 and 1995 but has since remained static.

There were also no complaints of sensitivity or allergic reactions from the 118 mothers who used the ointment, according to Dr. Louise Fischer. Over 10,000 mothers, most of them religious women with large broods, have used the preparation over the past two years. Its main ingredients are calendula, amica, myrrh, hypericum, wheat germ oil and eucalyptus oil. The company that markets it, Renata House in Tel Aviv, says it doesn't have to be washed off before the next feeding.

### Health Scan



By Post Health Reporter

The National Health Insurance Law, which went into effect in January 1995, slowed down to only two percent the increase in national expenditure on health in 1996-7, compared to a five-seven percent rise in previous years. In addition, the amount of state money invested in psychiatric care actually remained the same.

These statistics - which probably brought joy to Treasury officials but concern to the public and the Health Ministry - were released recently by the Central Bureau of Statistics.

Last year, Israel spent eight percent of its gross domestic product on health services, putting the country in a middling position compared to 15 OECD (Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development) countries: it came out ninth.

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### WOMEN'S CHECKUP

There is an encouraging sign of women's advancement: More and more women are applying for senior management positions and being sent by their prospective employer for comprehensive medical exams, just as men are. The Herzliya Medical Center reports that, due to demand for such medical services, it has begun to offer special executive medical exams for women. They may undergo not only mammography and a gynecological exam but also a cardiovascular stress test and an HIV test - all for less than NIS 700. Out of each 100 executive medical checkups in 1996, 20 were women; but last year, their share doubled.

Women who pass get equal wages and working conditions to their male counterparts in senior management jobs.

### MOTHER'S HELPER

Women who want to breast feed their babies are often deterred after suffering severe pain from sore or cracked nipples.

Now a clinical test carried out by a family physician at a mother-and-baby convalescent home at Tel Sheva offers some relief. A natural preparation called Rafael Nursing Mother's Ointment, which is not registered as a drug but approved as a cosmetic, was found to reduce the average time of pain from 12.4 days when using standard treatments (lanolin or vitamin E) to only 3.2 days.

There were also no complaints of sensitivity or allergic reactions from the 118 mothers who used the ointment, according to Dr. Louise Fischer.

Over 10,000 mothers, most of them religious women with large broods, have used the preparation over the past two years. Its main ingredients are calendula, amica, myrrh, hypericum, wheat germ oil and eucalyptus oil.

The company that markets it, Renata House in Tel Aviv, says it doesn't have to be washed off before the next feeding.

## Genome Project will usher in the golden age of 'designer drugs'

By PATRICIA REANEY

LONDON - It's what every research scientist is looking for, and the word every patient with a life-threatening disease is longing desperately to hear. Scientists can clone sheep from a single cell and routinely make babies in test tubes, but cures for the world's most deadly diseases have remained elusive. Until now. Not since the discovery of penicillin in the 1940s and the unraveling of the double helix of DNA a decade later have scientists been on the verge of such a golden age in medicine. Shortly after the turn of the millennium, in 2005, scientists around the world will have completed the Human Genome

Project - the mapping and sequencing of all human genes. Medical experts predict the achievement will change the way diseases are diagnosed and treated. "In the next 25 years that is going to have the biggest impact of all," said Professor Karol Sikora, a research scientist with Britain's Imperial Cancer Research Fund. "It will increase our understanding of the disease process, and that will lead to new cures," he added. "The major killers may be eradicated in the next 50 years."

In the past half-century, most of the major inroads in diseases have been based on scientific observation. Even Alexander Fleming's discovery of the anti-bacterial properties of penicillin has been described as a "great accident of time."

But the age of medicine in which scientists painstakingly searched, observed and tested new remedies will be replaced with high-tech screening methods and drugs customized to the individual patient, Sikora says. "That observational era of medicine is over because we have looked at all the things you can look at. People have collected all the plants and fungi there are in the world to look for pharmacological properties. We've come to the end of that."

What we have to do now is by biological design - designer drugs, basically - and that could be done as a by-product of the Genome Project," Sikora added. THE PROJECT in itself will not cure any diseases. But the sequencing of all human genes and the ability to make comparisons using gene-chip technology will help pharmacologists design drugs tailored to individuals suffering from everything from Alzheimer's disease and asthma to heart disease and tuberculosis.

more precisely who is likely to get a particular disease and target the population for screening more accurately. The World Health Organization predicts that heart and circulatory diseases and cancers, the current main causes of death, will continue to kill more people than other illnesses in the next century as the world's population lives longer. Despite our knowledge about the impact of diet, smoking and lifestyle on these diseases, deaths caused by them will rise. Once considered the plague of affluent society, with its rich diets and sedentary lifestyles, these non-communicable disorders are already gaining a troubling foothold in developing countries.







## NIGERIA

Continued from Page 16

Saudi Arabia, one of the surprise teams of the 1994 World Cup tournament when they reached the second round, showed little in attack and big Danish goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel had virtually nothing to do.

Denmark, appearing in their second World Cup final, had desperately wanted to get off to a winning start in a group which also features hosts France and South Africa.

But they wasted a number of good chances before defender Rieper showed the strikers the way to goal.

Denmark had a great chance in the 19th minute when striker Ebbe Sand latched on to a loose ball following a free kick but he scooped over from close range.

Michael Laudrup, making his 100th appearance for Denmark, combined with brother Brian to carve open the Saudi defence in the 33rd minute but Martin Jorgensen sliced the ball high and wide from an inviting position on the right of the penalty box.

The Danes, backed by noisy sup-

port, almost added a second in the 78th minute but substitute Allan Nielsen dragged his shot wide across the face of goal.

Shot-shy Bulgarians held by Paraguay

In Montpellier on Friday, shot-shy Bulgaria were held to a 0-0 draw by Paraguay in their opening, creating and squandering numerous chances in an entertaining group D match.

Hristo Stoichkov hit the post in the first half with a fierce left-foot shot from outside the box and Lyuboslav Penev blazed over the bar from close range in the second with the best of their opportunities.

But though the 1994 semifinalists dominated the first half, Paraguay came back well in the second and could have scored themselves on several occasions.

Their best effort came when flamboyant goalkeeper Jose Luis Chilavert forced his Bulgarian counterpart Zdravko Zdravkov to a brilliant save from a vicious, swerving free-kick.

Anatoly Nankov of Bulgaria became the first player to be shown a red card in the finals when he was dismissed for a second yellow card offence in the 89th minute.

The Bulls had 11 steals and the Jazz 10.

Kukoc kept the Bulls in the game in the first quarter, scoring their first eight points and 13 of their first 14 on 5-for-5 shooting, while the rest of the team went 0-for-13 at one point and yet were tied with Utah at 14-14. The quarter ended with Chicago up 18-16.

At the half, Chicago led 36-30 as Kukoc had 17 points - just four in the second quarter - and Jordan 13, 10 in the second period. Malone had eight in the first and six in the second, along with six rebounds.

In the third quarter, Malone scored Utah's first six points and Carr the team's next four as the Jazz went on a 17-7 run to go up a 47-43 advantage.

Then the game hit a testy, stop-and-start patch marked by unprovoked fouls, including two double technicals.

Chicago narrowed the lead to a point at 49-48, but Malone started a 9-4 run with the first six of his team's points.

In the quarter, the Jazz led by as many as seven and settled for a 59-55 lead heading into the final period following a Kukoc three-pointer.

The loss was Chicago's first at home in the Finals since 1993 against the Phoenix Suns, breaking the Bulls record of eight straight home wins.

# McGwire halfway to breaking Maris record

PHOENIX (Reuters) - St. Louis slugger Mark McGwire passed the halfway mark to breaking Roger Maris' celebrated 37-year-old home run record with a flourish on Friday.

McGwire belted his 11th career grand slam in an eight-run third inning, launching a 1-0 offering from Andy Benes (4-7) 438 feet into the left-center field bleachers for home run number 31 to lead the Cardinals to a 9-4 victory over the Arizona Diamondbacks.

"I didn't even realize it was a grand slam because I was mentally preparing myself for Andy because he struck me over the first time," McGwire said. "I didn't realize who was on base." McGwire is on pace to shatter the mark of 61 home runs Maris set with the New York Yankees in 1961.

He is also tied with Texas Rangers outfielder Juan Gonzalez for the most RBI in the majors at 80 and on pace to break Hack Wilson's 1930 all-time single-season RBI record of 190.

Phillies 4, Cubs 0  
In Philadelphia, Curt Schilling struck out 13 over seven innings and Rico Brogna belted a two-run homer before leaving with a shoulder injury to lead the Phillies to a 4-0 blanking of the suddenly cold Chicago Cubs.

Schilling (6-7) limited Chicago to four hits with two walks and increased his major league-leading strikeout total to 147 in halting a personal four-game losing streak.

Reds 8, Astros 1  
In Cincinnati, Mike Remlinger allowed just two hits in eight innings and the Reds scored four runs in the first inning on the way to an 8-1 victory over the Houston Astros.

Remlinger (4-7) gave up a game-opening homer to Craig Biggio. But after that he allowed only a fourth-inning single by Moises Alou and retired the next 13 batters he faced.

Expos 7, Braves 5  
In Atlanta, rookie DeRonald Stovall belted his first career grand slam in the ninth inning as the Montreal Expos rallied for a 7-5 victory over the Braves, spoiling Greg Maddux's attempt to become

baseball's first 10-game winner. Maddux left with a 5-2 lead after striking out eight over seven innings, but the Atlanta bullpen let him down.

Marlins 4, Mets 3  
At Florida, Todd Dunwoody's bounce over the middle brought home Craig Counsell with the winning run in the bottom of the ninth inning as the Marlins edged the New York Mets, 4-3.

With two out and men on the corners, Dunwoody bounced a 1-0 pitch to the right of second base. Mets second baseman Carlos Baerga made a backhanded stab at the ball but failed to pick it up and Counsell scored to end the game.

Brewers 4, Pirates 2  
In Pittsburgh, Jose Valentin homered twice and Scott Karl scattered five hits over 6 1/3 innings as the Milwaukee Brewers survived bases-loaded in the ninth for a 4-2 win over the Pirates.

Valentin lined a 3-1 pitch from Francisco Cordova (4-6) over the right field wall in the third and victimized Cordova again to lead off the seventh.

Dodgers 2, Rockies 1  
In Los Angeles, Raul Mondesi and Eric Young homered and Dave Mlicki picked up his first win for his new team as the Dodgers edged the Colorado Rockies 2-1.

Mlicki (2-4), acquired June 4 from the Mets in the Hideo Nomo trade, allowed one run and five hits with four strikeouts and no walks over eight innings.

American League  
Orioles 9, Blue Jays 5  
In Toronto, Joe Carter received a hero's welcome on his return to Toronto, before helping to beat his former team.

Carter, who hit the home run that won the 1993 World Series for Toronto, drove in three runs to lead the Baltimore Orioles to a 9-5 victory over the Blue Jays.

Royals 7, Tigers 3  
In Kansas City, Jeff King went 3-for-4 with four RBI and Jose Rosado pitched eight solid innings as the Royals beat the Detroit Tigers 7-3.

King, who has driven in 14 runs in his last 14 games, delivered two-run singles in the third

and fourth innings as the Royals raced to a 7-1 lead.

Twins 8, White Sox 7  
At Minnesota, pinch-hitter Todd Walker doubled home Matt Lawton with one out in the bottom of the ninth inning as the Twins squandered a five-run eighth-inning lead before pulling out an 8-7 victory over the Chicago White Sox.

With the score 7-7 in the ninth, Lawton came through with a one-out bloop single off Bill Simas (1-2). Walker, hitting for Denny Hocking, then drilled a 1-1 pitch down the right-field line to score Lawton from first with the winning run.

NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	45	22	.672	-
New York	36	28	.561	4 1/2
Pittsburgh	33	33	.500	7 1/2
Florida	26	39	.400	14
Montreal	20	46	.303	24 1/2

Central Division				
St. Louis	W	L	Pct.	GB
St. Louis	49	15	.766	-
Chicago	38	27	.585	2
Philadelphia	32	31	.508	7
Pittsburgh	31	32	.492	7 1/2
St. Louis	31	34	.477	9
Cincinnati	29	38	.433	12

West Division				
San Diego	W	L	Pct.	GB
San Diego	42	25	.621	-
San Francisco	41	26	.611	1
Los Angeles	34	34	.500	7 1/2
Colorado	27	40	.403	15
Arizona	21	46	.313	21

AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
New York	46	14	.767	-
Boston	38	24	.613	10
Baltimore	32	34	.485	17
Toronto	32	34	.485	17
Tampa Bay	27	38	.415	21 1/2

Central Division				
Cleveland	W	L	Pct.	GB
Cleveland	38	26	.594	-
Minnesota	30	34	.469	8
Chicago	28	38	.423	12
Kansas City	24	40	.375	14
Detroit	21	39	.371	14

West Division				
Seattle	W	L	Pct.	GB
Seattle	39	26	.600	-
San Diego	37	27	.576	1 1/2
Los Angeles	29	38	.433	11
Oakland	28	37	.431	11

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Friday's games: Boston 5, Tampa Bay 1; Baltimore 5, Toronto 5; Kansas City 7, Detroit 1; Anaheim 6, Texas 1; Milwaukee 6, Chicago White Sox 7; Seattle 5, Oakland 0.

Saturday's games: Montreal 5, N.Y. Yankees 5; Anaheim 10, Arizona 5; Cleveland 5, Seattle 2; Philadelphia 4, Toronto 5; Kansas City 7, Detroit 1; Anaheim 6, Texas 1; Milwaukee 6, Chicago White Sox 7; Seattle 5, Oakland 0.

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## SPORTS

in brief

## Gebrselassie sets world record in 5,000 meters

HELSINKI (AP) - Haile Gebrselassie of Ethiopia set a new world record in the 5,000 meters yesterday night in Helsinki. He clocked 12 minutes, 39.36 seconds. Daniel Komen of Kenya set the previous record of 12:39.74 last year.

Gebrselassie set a new record in the 10,000 meters in Hengelo, Netherlands, in his previous race.

## Maradona gets suspended sentence for shooting

BUENOS AIRES (Reuters) - Former Argentine soccer great Diego Maradona was convicted on Friday of shooting reporters with an air rifle in 1994 and received a suspended sentence of two years and 10 months.

His lawyer, Hugo Wortman Jofre, told reporters he would appeal for Maradona to do community service. The journalists injured by Maradona have said they will also appeal because they considered the sentence too light.

## Rusedski doubtful for Wimbledon

LONDON (Reuters) - World No. 4 Greg Rusedski was forced out of the London Grass Court Championships on Friday with an ankle injury which could leave his Wimbledon campaign in doubt.

The Briton was just 17 minutes into his third-round clash with Belgian Laurence Tielemans when he advanced towards the net for a volley and slipped, his ankle buckling.

Rusedski's cries of pain were so loud they could be heard on neighbouring courts, and he retired at 2-2 in the opening set. Wimbledon starts on June 22.

## Southern hemisphere rugby teams triumph

HAMILTON, New Zealand (Reuters) - England managed to restrict New Zealand A to an 18-10 win yesterday following their 76-0 annihilation by Australia last weekend.

England, playing with nine changes, led 10-8 at halftime in the near-cyclone conditions but failed to capitalize on having the wind behind them in the first half.

In Sydney, Australia stormed home after a slow start to beat Scotland by a record 45-3 in the opening Test yesterday.

In Bloemfontein, Springbok wing Stefan Terblanche capped a dream debut with four tries to lead South Africa to a 37-13 victory over Ireland in the first Test yesterday.

In Witbank, South Africa, The Emerging Springboks beat Wales 35-13 (half-time 24-6) on Friday.

## Caddick completes nine-wicket match haul

LONDON (Reuters) - Somerset pace bowler Andy Caddick, overlooked by England since touring West Indies earlier this year, completed a nine-wicket match haul against Lancashire to lift his season's tally to 33 yesterday.

Caddick followed his four for 67 in the first innings with five for 80 as Lancashire were dismissed for 236 in their second innings on the third day of the four-day county championship match at Old Trafford.

The New Zealand-born bowler took four of Lancashire's remaining six wickets on a pitch aiding the seamers after they resumed at the overnight 139 for four.

Somerset, left to make 271 to win, slumped to 47 for four by the close.

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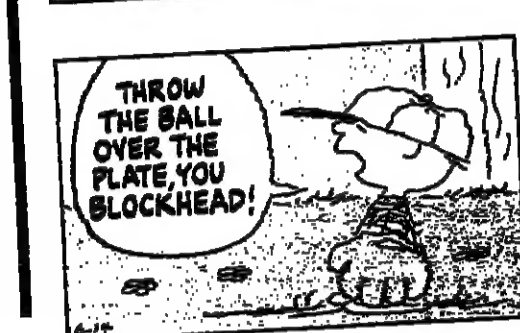
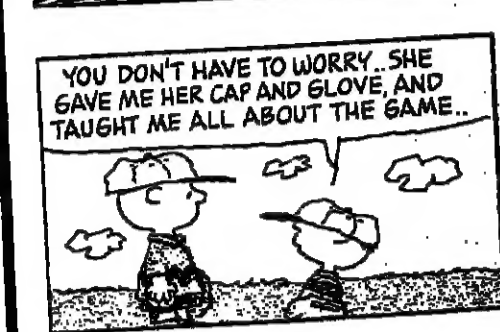
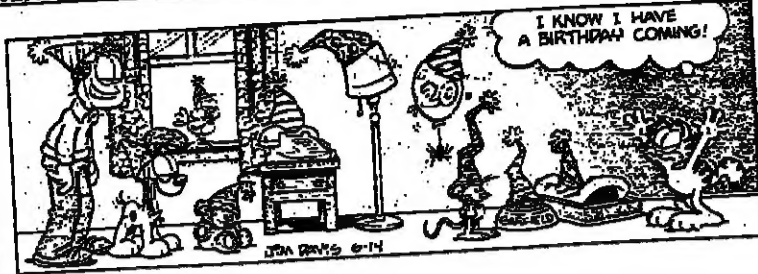
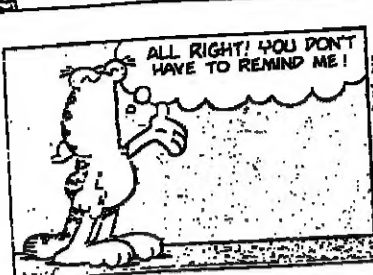
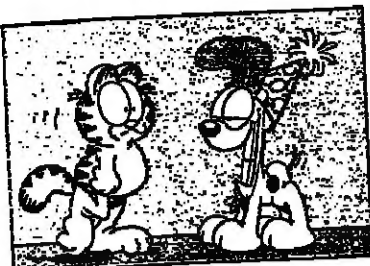
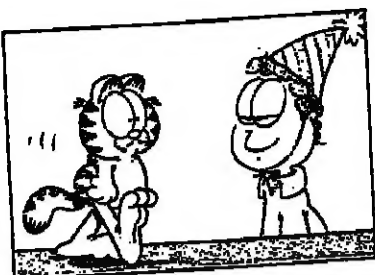
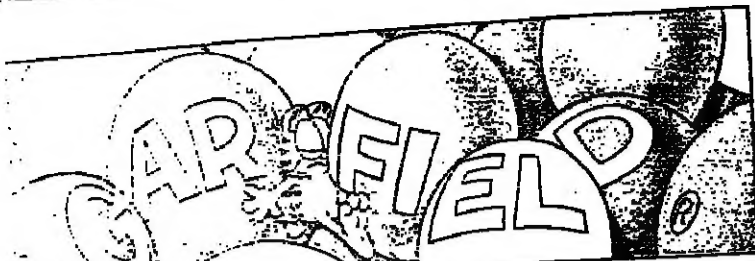
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THE JERUSALEM POST

# Sunday Comics

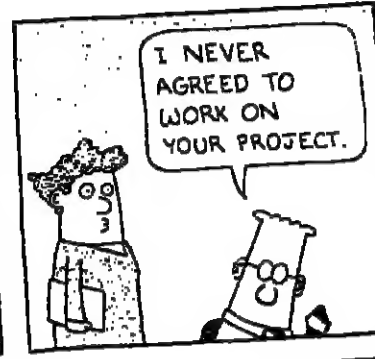
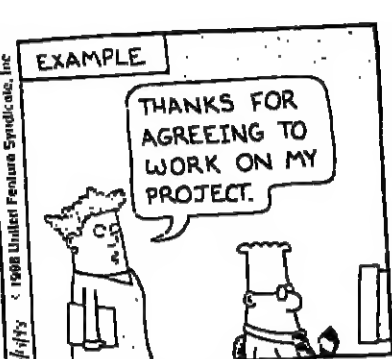
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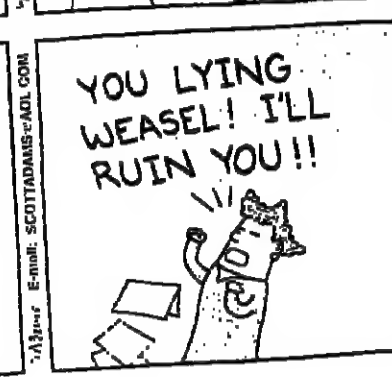
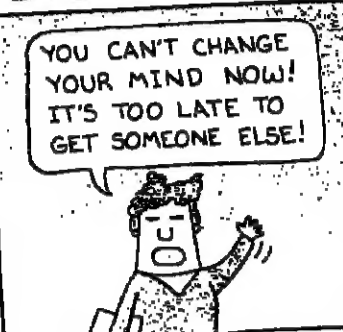
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DILBERT'S FIRST LAW OF BUSINESS

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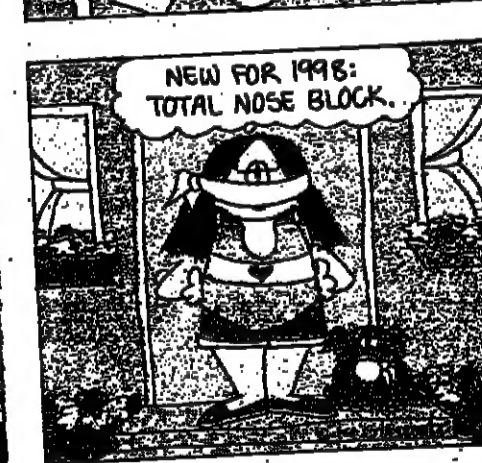
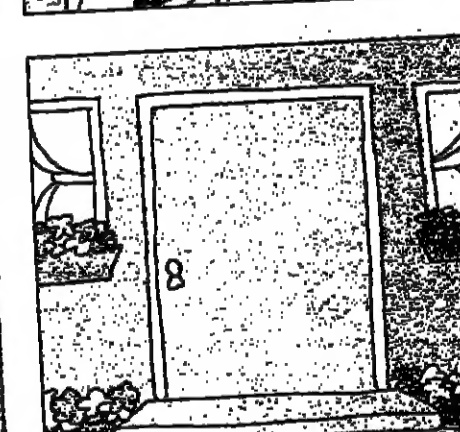
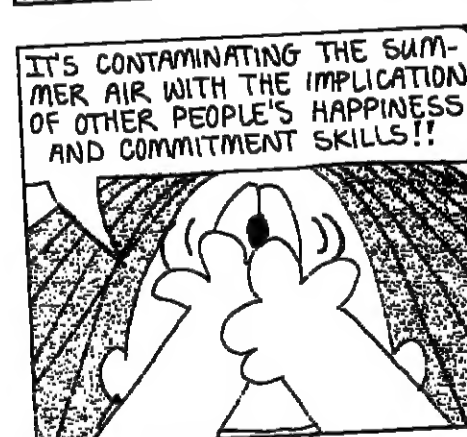
BY SCOTT ADAMS



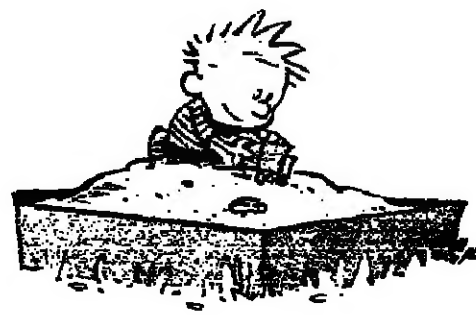
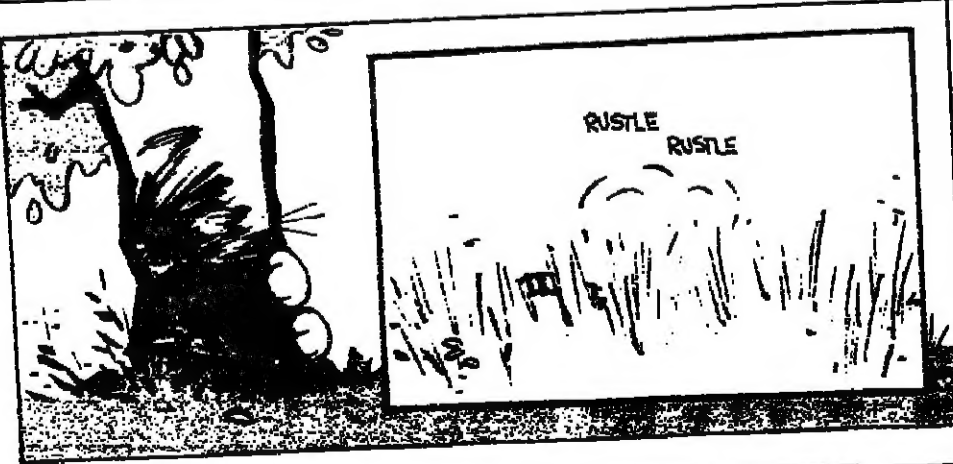
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WHAT?

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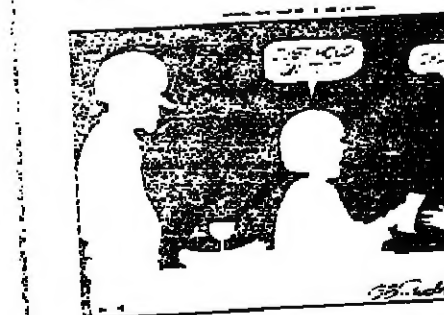
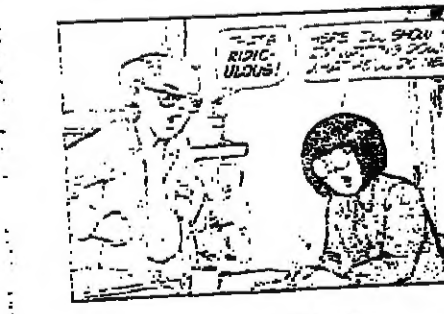
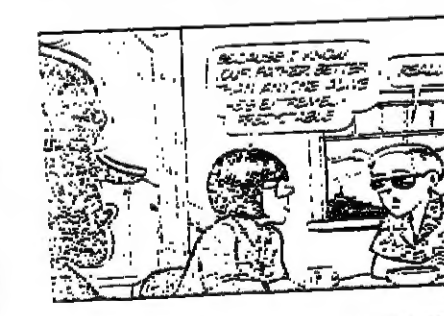
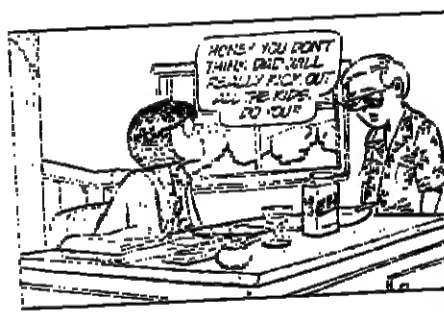


Calvin and Hobbes



Doonesbury

G. B. TRUDEAU



ENTERTAINMENT & LEISURE GUIDE OF THE JERUSALEM POST

هناك من لا يرى



## CRITICS' CHOICE

## CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Violinist Pamela Frank and violist Tabia Zimmermann present a joint recital, performing music by Mozart, Spohr and Martinu tonight (8:30) at the Henry Crown Hall in the Jerusalem Theater as part of the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra IBA Outstanding Recitals in Jerusalem series.

## ENGLISH THEATER

HELEN KAYE

Bertold Brecht's fable *The Good Person of Szechuan* asks whether goodness is even possible in this world. When Shen Te (Helen Lesnick) gets a bit of good luck because she's been good to a trio of visiting gods, she has to invent a wicked brother so that she can go on doing good despite rapacious neighbors. But then love rears its irrational head... The Tel Aviv Community Theater production is directed by Suchinta Wichesoyria. Last show tonight at 8:30 at Tel Aviv's Yad Lebanon.

## YIDDISH THEATER

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Both those marvelous Yankels - Bodo and Halperin - star in the Yiddish Theater's jubilee revue, which also celebrates its own 10th anniversary. It's called *Our Yom-Tov, Yiddish!* and salutes 50 years of local Yiddish theater and music hall. There are songs, sketches and excerpts which pay tribute to some of the Yiddish greats who performed here, such as Dvigan and Schumacher, Yosef Bulov, the Barry Sisters, and Shmuel Segal, interpreted by today's actors. Tonight at the Jerusalem Theater at 8 p.m.

## FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

\*\*\* THE WEDDING SINGER - Light as a marshmallow and about as nourishing, this is a silly but entertaining romantic comedy that stars Adam Sandler as a suburban crooner who makes a living serenading newlyweds at a local



Violinist Pamela Frank plays Mozart, Spohr and Martinu in Jerusalem.

reception hall, and Drew Barrymore as a cute waitress engaged to marry a big lug of a junk-bond trader. Director Frank Coraci and screenwriter Tim Herlihy understand the trifling nature of their material and they do a good job of keeping things bubbly and proportional. Much of the humor here comes from the picture's comic-book approach to its time frame. The year is 1985, the clothes are tacky and everyone's hair looks awful. And though it is a bit disconcerting to see such recent fads already treated as the stuff of ancient history, the filmmakers' exaggerated approach to their setting feels necessary. The story alone is too slight to sustain an entire picture, and by adding a bit of polyester sparkle, they give themselves more room to play. (Parental guidance suggested.)

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